

GCSE Art Graphics

Examination Board: AQA

Course Specification: Art & Design (Graphical Communication)

What is GCSE Graphics all about?

Art Graphics is about using images and text to convey a message, theme or idea. It's for students who love to experiment with different media, not only digitally using Photoshop and Illustrator but also in using photography and art media such as paint, pencil crayon, collage, stencilling, watercolours. As you develop your graphics skills you need to show resilience and be willing to try new things. You also need to be curious about graphic designers, illustrators and artists and use this to inspire your own work.

How will you learn?

- We are a digital course where you will produce a digital portfolio, and will use Photoshop and Illustrator to create and develop your own typography, images and outcomes.
- You will experiment with a wide range of art and design materials, from collage and stencilling to using digital editing programmes.
- You will explore graphic designers, illustrators, artists and use their influences to inspire you work
- You will develop your own graphical style
- You will develop a portfolio which forms part of your GCSE and also showcases your work to colleges or apprenticeship providers, should you wish to continue your students after GCSE.

Course Structure:

Year 10

You will begin the course by developing skills using a range of techniques exploring typography and image manipulation through a series of workshops. You will practice and master these skills through the building of a portfolio of work, consisting of two teacher directed projects.

Year 11

Building on the skills and knowledge acquired in Year 10, you will refine and master your expertise in producing graphic design outcomes linked to research and development. Finalising your portfolio in the first term, you will then produce a personal project and outcome which meets the brief of the externally set assignment.

How will you be assessed?

We follow the AQA GCSE Graphical Communication specification which consists of two components. There is no written exam paper, it is a practical based exam.

Component 1: Portfolio

60% of the GCSE (96 marks)

The student portfolio consists of 2 projects undertaken during the course. This work is assessed by your teacher and moderated by the exam board, AQA.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

40% of the GCSE (96 marks)

From January in Year 11, students respond to a chosen theme provided by the exam board. You will produce a preparatory portfolio demonstrating knowledge and skills through exploration of this theme. This leads to the development of ideas and then a final outcome, which is produced in 10 hours supervised time. This work is assessed by your teacher and moderated by the exam board, AQA.

What could I do next with GCSE Graphics?

The creative industries continue to be a growing sector where over 1 in 8 businesses are part of the part of the creative industry. Studying Graphics can lead to a career in the fastest developing industry in areas, such as illustration, animation, web design, advertising, graphic design, game design, Esports, film editor.

Any questions please contact Mrs Campbell on acampbell@sandbachschool.org