

GCSE Art

Examination Board: AQA

Course Specification: Art & Design (Fine Art)

What is GCSE Art all about?

It's about recording the world around you using drawing, painting and other art materials. You will experiment with a range of art materials and techniques, developing your skills through being resilient and being willing to try new things. You need to be curious about artists and the world around you, using this to inspire your own work.

How will you learn?

- GCSE Art focuses on drawing and developing those skills; so a love of drawing is important!
- You will develop skills in a range of art materials; acrylic paint, oil pastel, pencil, biro, printmaking, collage to name a few
- You will explore artists and their influences, both historical and current and use this to inspire your own work
- You will develop your own artistic style and you will be encouraged to continue your studies at home
- You will produce a portfolio used as part of your GCSE as well as showcasing your work to college or apprenticeship providers

Course Structure:

Year 10

You will begin the course by developing your skills in recording through experimentation with art materials; developing a range of traditional drawing and painting techniques as well as exploring mixed media approaches. You will practice and master these skills through the building of a portfolio of artwork 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 observation, research and development of outcomes. 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 Fine Art 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. They produce a preparatory portfolio demonstrating their knowledge and artistic 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 Art?

You could progress to A Level, offered here at Sandbach School, or other level 3 courses. The creative industries continue to be a growing sector where over 1 in 8 businesses are part of the creative industry. Therefore, studying Art can lead to careers in a wide range of growing areas, such as illustration, commercial artist, architecture, animation, web design, advertising, curation, publishing, game design, the list is vast.

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