

## The Course

The A Level specification consists of two components:

### Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)

### Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

In the first two terms of the Lower Sixth, students work through a series of focused projects to develop their confidence, creative thinking and technical skills as emerging artists. In the final term, students must set their own theme and begin the research and initial practical work for the Personal Investigation. This major body of work is developed until December of the Upper Sixth. The theme for the Externally Set Assignment is allocated by the exam board and students develop a body of work over several weeks which culminate in a 15 hour controlled exam in the Art studios where they produce a final outcome for Component 2.

All students will experience the following range of media and techniques to develop their skills to a high standard:

- **Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography and mixed media.**
- **Weekly life drawing instruction.**
- **Guidance on composition, medium and the most appropriate scale for their work.**
- **Contextual research and analysis and how to analyse artworks using formal language to express their views and opinions.**
- **Professional artist workshops.**
- **Exhibition and lecture visits.**

The primary aim of this course is to develop mature and creative individuals who have the confidence to express themselves. Part of that confidence comes from being able to use media in an accomplished manner and we make no apologies for putting particular emphasis on traditional skills. Time and again, our students return from university interviews smiling, having been complimented on the quality of their portfolio and then offered a place on their chosen degree course.





### **Why choose Art?**

This subject is essential for students wishing to continue their studies in Art and Design related courses at university including Fine Art, Sculpture, Illustration, Architecture, History of Art, Design, Product Design, Graphic Design, 3D Computer Generated Imagery, Computer Modelling and Animation, Automotive and Transport Design, Fashion Design, Theatre and Costume Design, Special Effects Make Up Design, Interior Design, Art Education and many more.

Alternatively you may choose to study Art because you love the subject, are good at it and want to keep creative-thinking as part of your future. The study of Art can complement your other chosen subjects in a positive way and give you a better appreciation of the world around us. It can make you more socially and emotionally aware, which in turn will make you a better colleague, manager or leader. The level of creative autonomy within the course will enable you to express your ideas effectively and develop new methods of problem solving. It will also improve your organisation and independent study techniques as well as many other transferable skills that are useful in a whole range of careers.

### **What do I need to study A Level Art and Design - Fine Art?**

A minimum Grade 6 in GCSE Art is required and a Grade 7 is strongly recommended.



### The Teaching Staff

All staff within the department are Bachelors or Masters of Fine Art with specialisms in figurative painting, drawing, sculpture, installation and photography. Our department technician is also a professional illustrator and can often be found advising students on ideas and techniques.

### The Facilities

The Fine Art studios occupy the entire top floor of the Art department and students are given their own work space for the duration of the two year course, much like a university degree experience. Life drawing instruction is undertaken each week with a range of experienced professional models. We are able to offer students the opportunity to work in a much larger scale than is usually seen at A Level, if their skills and ambition lead them down this path. Workshops by visiting artists and sculptors are an integral part of the course along with visits to relevant exhibitions. Students are also encouraged to enter local and national competitions.

