

Art and Design

Exam board: Edexcel



The Fine Art course aims to refine and develop skills learned at GCSE during the Art and Design course. Students are encouraged to experiment with a wide range of media and materials; drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, mixed media working to name a few. Fine Art students should have a creative imagination and be driven by a natural curiosity for experimentation across a range of disciplines.

Drawing skills are an excellent starting point for any Fine Art project, these skills will be developed throughout the course. After an initial period of workshop tasks, students are encouraged to develop an independent approach to their studies focussing on the media and materials that best suits their intentions.

Students should demonstrate a keen interest in the work of other designers and artists, using them as an inspirational starting point for their own development work. Their studies will be supported by contextual visits to various London Galleries where they will use their understanding to inform their own creative journey.

The course culminates in an exhibition of their final outcomes at The Chauncy Gallery during the summer term.

Summary of assessment

| | Components | Portfolio | Weighting | Method of assessment |
|----|---------------------------|---|-----------|---|
| AS | Component 1 Coursework | Personal Investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support studies – Sketchbook/presentation boards. • Practical – Experiments/Final outcome | 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated |
| | Component 2 Exam | Externally set assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory studies – Sketchbook/ Presentation boards. • 10 hour period of sustained focus – Final outcome. | 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated |
| A2 | Component 1 | Personal investigation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting studies – Sketchbook/Presentation boards. • Practical – Experiments/ Final outcome. • Personal study - 1000 word essay. | 60% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated |
| | Component 2 | Externally set assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory studies – Sketchbook/ Presentation boards. • 15 hour period of sustained focus – Final outcome. | 40% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated |

Frequently asked questions

Do I have to have studied Art and Design at GCSE?

To be considered for a place on the course you should obtain a C grade or above at GCSE. Those students that would like to study AS/A level Fine Art, but have not obtained a GCSE C grade, will still be considered and interviewed.

How much written work is involved?

The course does involve written work in the form of sketchbook annotations; these outline ideas and put personal responses in to context through artists analysis. The full A level course also has a personal study essay of 1000 words (min).

Do I need to buy any art materials?

The department is well equipped with materials that are available to students. However, if specialist materials are required then students may have to source them independently. It is advised that students purchase a set of acrylic paints and drawing pencils for working from home.

Will this course help me to get a place at college or university?

These courses will give you the opportunity to build an experimental portfolio to show case student skills and creative abilities. Work created by the students is then used during the interview process in order to gain a place on degree courses or other higher education qualifications.

Will I get a good grade?

The Art and Design department is supportive of all students, we have high expectations and students work well to achieve their desired result. Students are encouraged to direct their own choice of study through project work to produce original and refined results.

J Hammond, Head of Art

