

ART

A Level

Head of Department:

James Edwards

Exam Board:

Edexcel – Fine Art Specification



What is the course about?

Fine Art explores practical and critical/contextual work through the disciplines of painting and drawing, printmaking, sculpture and lens-based image making.

What will I study in the first year?

Component One: Personal Investigation (Coursework portfolio) - This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing resolved outcome(s). The deadline for completion is early January.

Component Two: Externally set assignment – This is released in January and incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 10 hour exam taken over two days. During the exam period, students will produce final outcome(s) extending from their preparatory studies in response to the Externally Set Assignment, under examination conditions.

What will I study in the second year?

The Year 13 course follows the same structure as that of Year 12 but also allows for a personal choice of project for the Coursework portfolio and the expectation of a written personal study of 1000- 3000 words.

How is the course assessed?

Component One: Personal Investigation is 60% of the total qualification.

Component Two: Externally set assignment is 40% of the total qualification.

What skills will I develop in this course?

In Fine Art students are required to develop the skills to:

- record experiences and observations in a variety of ways using drawing or other appropriate visual forms; undertake research; gather, select and organise visual and other appropriate information
- explore relevant resources; analyse, discuss and evaluate images, objects and artefacts; make and record independent judgements
- use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking and inform own work
- generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques
- apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; review and modify work; plan and develop ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluations
- organise, select and communicate ideas, solutions and responses.

What does this subject offer for higher education and future careers?

A level Art is useful for careers and degrees in many areas. It leads on to degrees in Textiles and Fashion, Theatre set design, costume and make up. Degrees in Fine Art Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics and Print making, also illustration, Book design, Graphic design and Architecture.

A Level Art is often followed by a one year Foundation course in which students are given more experience and directed advice about degrees in the different Art disciplines. However this is not compulsory.

It is also an A level recognised by many, as a subject which gives diversity and balance to a possibly specialised timetable of Science, Mathematics or the Humanities.