

# ART & DESIGN

All students who study art and design work in both two and three dimensional areas and use a wide variety of materials, techniques and processes. We offer three separate specialisms – painting and drawing, textile design and three dimensional design, although students can also work in mixed media, collage, print making and photography.

Good observational skills are the common link between all the above, but students do not have to be good at traditional drawing to achieve good grades.

We encourage the whole school community to use the facilities after normal lessons particularly in the evenings, at weekends and occasionally in the holidays.

We aim to promote the appreciation of art and design throughout the School and encourage visits to local, national and international museums and art galleries. We participate in exhibitions, art festivals and displays at a range of venues.

A variety of guest lecturers, artists, designers and speakers further enhance our educational experiences encouraging the School to interact with the local community.

## ART & DESIGN IN THE LOWER & MIDDLE SCHOOL (First, Second & Third years)

During the First-Third Years, students gain experience in the three areas of the Art Department: Painting & Drawing, Textile Design and Three-dimensional Design. They spend one-fifth of the year working within each discipline and will, over their first three years of study, develop the skills and concepts that will lead on to GCSE.

### Painting & Drawing

In the Lower School, the emphasis is on drawing and painting from observation where students focus on the problems of line, form, space and colour. They are encouraged to develop confidence and skills in a range of materials and techniques.

In the Middle School, the emphasis is on pictorial composition and students will develop their ideas for a 'finished' painting with reference to the work of major historical painters. For example, if the theme of their work were Landscape, they would look at the work of painters such as Constable, Turner, the Impressionists or Fauves and also be encouraged to look at contemporary painters and their work. They would then develop their work from small compositional sketches, using first- or second-hand sources, to larger paintings concentrating on paint mixing, application techniques and the ability to create the illusion of 3D space on a 2D surface.

### Textiles

During the first year, the emphasis in Textiles is on familiarisation with materials, techniques and good studio practice. Students are introduced to the use of sewing machines, along with the construction of fabric, pattern, preparation, cutting and basic construction techniques.

During the three years, the emphasis is on design and manufacture, introducing techniques such as tie-dye, batik painting, quilting, embroidery and appliqué etc. Drawing is emphasised as part of the design process and much of the work may include observational drawing as the starting point of the project.

### Three-dimensional Design

The main material used in this area is clay, but other materials may be introduced when appropriate.

First Year students concentrate on designing and making, and become aware of ceramic construction techniques such as slab, coil, moulds, sculpture etc. There is an emphasis on texture, surface design and decorative techniques. Students have a wide range of glazes, multipurpose colours, stains and lustres and, where appropriate, explore more peripheral finishes such as smoking, raku firing and pit firing.

## Assessment

At the end of every term students are assessed and graded on some or all of the following criteria: standard of finished work, variety of materials and techniques used, variety of approaches considered, standard of preparational work, imagination/intelligence applied.

## ART & DESIGN IN THE UPPER SCHOOL (Fourth & Fifth Years)

### *Syllabus*

AQA Art and Design Unendorsed Course (3201 C & T)

### *Assessment*

Three units of Coursework 60%  
One External Examination 40%

The controlled test takes place in February/March of the Fifth Year. Candidates receive the question paper four weeks in advance and have a controlled test period of ten hours spread over two days. Coursework must be complete by the deadline date which usually falls in the middle of May.

### *Course Structure*

The Unendorsed course demands that students work in both two and three dimensions from a variety of materials within the Art and Design area. We traditionally offer Painting and Drawing, Three Dimensional Design (Ceramics & Sculpture) and Textiles (printed, hand-painted, constructed, etc), although students can also work in mixed media, collage, simple printmaking techniques and, provided a girl has some background knowledge and the ability to work on her own, photography. Drawing is the common link to all of the above but students do not have to be 'good at drawing' in order to do well on the course.

In the Fourth Year, all students will work in the areas of Painting and Drawing, Three Dimensional Design and Textiles, and will continue to build on their work in these areas in the Fifth Year. The examination unit of work can be done in any area of their choice within the three disciplines.

Students will make one or two organised visits to art galleries during each year of the course, but it is expected of each student that she will develop an inquiring mind and make individual visits to galleries and museums in her own time.

## ART & DESIGN IN THE SIXTH FORM

### *Syllabus*

AQA Art and Design – 5202B – 6202B

### *Assessment Pattern*

The A Level Art and Design course consists of six units as follows:

Unit 1	AS	Coursework
Unit 2	AS	Coursework
Unit 3	AS	Controlled Test
Unit 4	A2	Coursework
Unit 5	A2	Personal Study
Unit 7	A2	Controlled Test

## *Syllabus Content*

Candidates submit three units of work at AS level which comprise of two units of coursework, plus one externally set unit as a controlled test.

Candidates are required to produce their coursework units in Painting, Sculpture or Textile Design. Each unit comprises of a final finished piece plus at least four A1 sheets of supporting studies.

The Controlled Test Unit is externally set and students are required to produce four A1 sheets of preparational studies plus a final piece. The preparatory work must be completed within four working weeks and students have five hours to complete a final piece.

At A2 level candidates submit three units of work which comprise of two units of coursework plus one externally set unit as a controlled test.

For Unit 4 candidates are required to produce a unit in Painting, Sculpture or Textile Design. The unit comprises a final finished piece plus at least five A1 sheets of supporting studies.

Unit 5 is a written personal study. This unit requires close analysis of a chosen topic from an area of Fine Art. This study may be presented in any appropriate format but we would encourage a visual and written project of 3,000 words.

The Controlled Test unit (unit 7) is externally set and students are required to produce four A1 sheets of preparatory studies plus a final piece. The preparatory work must be completed within four working weeks and students have fifteen hours to complete a final piece.

All coursework and controlled tests both at AS and A2 level are internally marked and externally moderated.

Units 1, 2 and 3 may be taken at the end of the first year and students will be awarded an AS qualification. At this point some students may decide to finish the course and focus on other A levels. Students whose major aim is A level Art will still have to complete the AS units before progressing on to the A2 course to gain a full A level.

## *Art and Design and University Entrance*

A level Art and Design may be combined with two other subjects for university entrance and students have entered many different degree courses, including Medicine, Engineering, English and Drama. A level Art and Design may also lead to an Art Foundation course, followed by a BA Degree in a wide range of areas such as Graphic, Fashion, Textiles, Industrial and Product Design.

Most Art and Design courses are in applied art and have a strong vocational element. Apart from the obvious design areas there are also careers in Fine Art restoration, gallery curating, management and education.