

A-LEVEL / AQA / 2 YEARS

FASHION & TEXTILES

The course exposes students to a creative learning experience which develops and refines both practical and critical-thinking skills. A fundamental value is placed on real world experiences and employability whilst exploring all avenues of surface design. This broad-based course encourages students to work as innovative and professional designers/ practitioners, anticipating possible emerging trends within the creative field, predominantly fashion and interiors. Areas covered include:

digital print / rust dye / mono print / lino print / knit / hand & machine embroidery / fashion garment sampling / weave / wood block print / heat press / repeated pattern / drawing [abstract/representational] / shape / quality of line / actual texture / implied texture / composition / colour palette / silhouette / photo shoots / three dimensional textiles / innovative surfaces / portfolio refinement.

Students have flexibility in their approach to the subject; portfolios can focus on a specific context to design for industry, which could range from high street fashion prints to gift wrap, wallpaper or illustration. Alternatively, students may take a more conceptual approach to merge outcomes with Fine Art principles; playing with obscure materials, processes and scale to question social issues and popular culture. The A-level Fashion and Textiles course has no prior learning requirements but a GCSE or equivalent in Art & Design is recommended.

TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

This course echoes degree modes of study to establish a specialised studio feel. This is reinforced and supported by aspirational and informative Q+A sessions led by visiting professionals. An ongoing programme of focused visits includes national HE institutions, industry partners and gallery visits and these enrichment opportunities inform studio practice.

ASSESSMENT

The course is a two-year linear qualification consisting of two components:

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%), internally assessed and externally moderated

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%), internally assessed and externally moderated

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS

We recommend that students take no more than two visual arts subjects (Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Art, Craft and Design, Fashion and Textiles) as we encourage a broad curriculum. Other subjects that combine well with Fashion and Textiles include Media Studies, Film Studies, English Literature, History and Business Studies.

CAREERS/HE INFORMATION

Many students go on to study the Level 4 Foundation Art diploma at Durham Sixth Form Centre to support applications into arts-based university degrees. Students also apply directly to degree courses at prestigious universities such as Central St Martins, and Manchester Metropolitan. There is also the possibility of fashion-based apprenticeships including roles such as apprentice fashion buyer at Tesco's F+F range at Welwyn Garden City, where a past student is currently employed.