

A-LEVEL / AQA / 2 YEARS

FINE ART

Students are introduced to a variety of experiences through a wide range of media, processes and techniques. Students will be made aware of both traditional and new media, exploring the use of drawing for different purposes, using a variety of methods and media on a variety of scales. Students use sketchbooks to underpin their work, exploring relevant images, artefacts and resources from the past and from recent times. Students' responses to these examples are shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions.

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of Fine Art. They explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas: drawing and painting / mixed media including collage and assemblage / sculpture / ceramics / installation / printmaking (relief, intaglio, screen processes and lithography) / moving image and photography.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

Students are given a range of set themes as starting points which encourages the development of individual ideas informed through the study of art history and contemporary artists. Students are expected to create final outcomes at the end of each project which support sketchbooks documenting their creative journeys. Skills-based teaching in drawing, printing, mixed media and digital manipulation take place alongside the development of projects which extend students' ability to analyse art. Students take part in small group workshops, individual tutorials, class critiques throughout the course as well as being offered opportunities to attend gallery visits and residential art trips.

ASSESSMENT

Component 1 (60% of final mark) Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements make connections with contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of 1000 - 3000 words which supports the practical work, a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Component 2 Externally Set Task (40% of final mark) Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response.

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 Fine Art include Media Studies, Film Studies, Games Development, 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 BA Hons degree courses in Fine Art and Architecture. Former students have achieved places in prestigious universities such as Central St Martins, Newcastle and Goldsmiths. 100% of our Fine Art students from last year are now in higher education, 78% are in art- or design-based courses.