

Art, Craft and Design



AQA Specification

General information:

Art is a creative subject in which students will respond independently to themes and questions. You will present your investigations in a sketchbook which is used to visually articulate the understanding and context of your work, researching artists and information appropriate to your practice. You will have the opportunity to realise your work and curate an exhibition as a group. Students will also be given the opportunity to visit London Galleries and go on a residential trip to broaden your depth of experience - we have previously visited New York, Florence, Rome and Paris. These trips are a vital learning resource they inspire and inform ideas and responses, developing students' understanding of their subject in a wider context. You will have the full support of an experienced team of practitioners within their respective disciplines alongside a dedicated technical support team.

Course content:

The course is designed to develop your ability as a young Artist, questioning and reflecting on themes that will initially be set for you. The course will allow you to pursue and develop an idea creatively and confidently with the support of expert teaching staff. Your initial project will be based on the theme 'Structures'. This will start with a focus on drawing techniques and ways to develop a personal response to the theme in a short intensive project that will give you a comprehensive understanding of the assessment objectives. You will also explore digital art, learn how to use Photoshop and Illustrator and also look at photography and digital editing. You will then independently work in response to a theme from a selection of visual and written starting points. We will work together to ensure you understand the expectations of the subject and prepare you for your A level. From doing this initial project, you will be able to confidently explore all the areas of Art and Design before specialising on your chosen path, whether that is to keep studying Art Craft and Design and all the areas of Art or you may want to specialise in Photography or Graphic Design.

How is the course taught and assessed?

Component 1: The Portfolio, worth 60%, which you will start at the end of year 12. This will be supported by a written assignment to contextualize your investigation (1000-3000 words).

The course concludes with Component 2: An externally set Assignment, worth 40%, to be completed in the February of Year 2.

Student's work is assessed against four assessment objectives (AOs):

AO1: Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

AO2: Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 6 in GCSE Art, Graphic Design, Photography or Design Technology and a portfolio of work to support if needs be.

Results information:

Art is a very successful subject at BWS. In 2023, 100% of students achieved grades A* to B at A level.

Top destinations for students:

Common choices include Art Foundation Courses, degrees in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Architecture, Marketing, Product Design and more.

Beyond the curriculum:

Students are offered the opportunity to continue their art work in the art rooms outside of lessons when available. They are able to display their work around the school, be published in Wordsworth magazine and support younger students with their art work.

Students will also be given the opportunity to visit London Galleries and a go on a residential trip to broaden their depth of experience - we have previously visited New York, Florence, Rome and Paris. These trips are a vital learning resource they inspire and inform ideas and responses, developing students understanding of their subject in a wider context.