

Art

Key Stage 4

Why choose Art and Design?

This is a question that many pupils and parents might ask. The following information should help to answer this question.

Career Opportunities

One of the primary reasons for choosing Art and Design could be that the pupil is interested in a career in this area. Art and Design courses offered by Educational Centres provide direct and valuable access to the World of Industry and Commerce. There are many opportunities and courses these days (over 70 different types of Art & Design related courses) and only a few examples are mentioned below: -

- Animation, Industrial Design
- Fashion / Textiles, Design, Advertising
- Architecture, Jewellery, Ceramics
- Theatre Design, Commercial Photography, Television
- Video / Computer Graphics
- Conservation/Restoration Work, Film, Cinema, Interior Design etc.



The list is endless, in fact any work you can think of that needs visual literacy values a broad based Art & Design education.

The WJEC Art and Design course allows pupils to develop skills in many ways. Learners are prepared for this by providing them with the opportunity to experience a wide range of approaches to Art and Design using techniques such as:

- a. Drawing and Painting
- b. Graphics (including Print Making and Commercial Design)
- c. Textiles / Design (Construction, Surface Embellishment, Fashion)
- d. Three Dimensional Studies (Ceramics, Sculpture, Jewellery etc).



Learners will work in these areas throughout the coursework time and produce work based on teacher specifications.

Learners are encouraged to be experimental as they develop their creativity and learn to express their ideas visually.

Course Requirements

Learners will need to fulfil the following requirements:

Personal Portfolio - 60%.

Externally Set Focused Task - 40%.

Personal Portfolio (60% of the total marks awarded)

During the course, pupils are encouraged to respond to projects and activities in a personal way. Initially, all pupils will undertake a foundation skills project which will focus on the key areas and develop the necessary technical and thinking skills required.



Pupils will be expected to undertake:

- Research and analysis tasks looking at a variety of artists and designers
- Sketching and recording through hand drawn images and photography
- Development of ideas through the use of a range of elements including line, colour, texture, pattern and shape
- Self-evaluation using annotation to explain ideas, techniques and materials.

For the portfolio pupils are encouraged to use their creativity to meet the demands of the theme / brief. From a choice of starting points pupils will be expected to respond in a personal and imaginative way to the theme, using and building on the skills developed in the foundation skills project.

Externally Set Focused Task (40% of the total marks awarded)

Before the Focused Task, pupils will produce preparatory studies to research, develop, experiment and plan their ideas for the sustained focused work. This will occur during normal lesson time but the completion of the final outcome will take place over 10 hours under exam conditions. All pupils will receive their external set task paper towards the end of the course in Year 11. The paper will contain a variety of possible tasks / assignments from which the pupils will choose **one** to research and develop ideas for their final outcome.



During the course learners will develop strong drawing skills and later specialise in the areas they find most interesting and best suited to their strengths, skills and aspirations.

The Art & Design Department visits local and national galleries and involves the learners in workshops to help and develop critical and personal responses to local and major artists. In this way they are able to evaluate their own work to make accomplished outcomes.

Homework

Homework is set regularly for all learners. They can expect to put a lot of time and effort into their work in order to achieve an excellent grade. Homework is targeted to develop and extend class work themes and is closely linked to the assessment objectives of the WJEC examination board.

For the course, each pupil will be asked to purchase an A2 folder (to help them store and protect their coursework throughout the course) and an A3 sketchbook. We will provide all other materials free of charge. However, access to a camera, even quite a simple one, is an asset. Pupils benefit from being able to collect information for paintings and designs.



How can parents help?

To help support your child you may find that buying a few art materials - a set of water based paints, two brushes and a set of drawing pencils and some chalk / oil pastels would be helpful in assisting your son / daughter to produce high quality work. Please contact the Art department if you require further information.

