



The Art Department are excited to work with our talented GCSE cohort, as you further your journey into A Level Fine Art, as well as welcoming new starters from other schools! The two-year course is designed to really push you outside your comfort zone, whilst building on skills you have already developed. It is a highly creative course, which becomes increasingly individualised as it progresses. Please read through this document to both familiarise yourself with our specification, expectations and to make a head start in the time you now have at your disposal.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time should you have any questions or indeed to share any work you produce over the Summer break;

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## A Level Fine Art Specification

Similarly to GCSE, the Art Department follow the **AQA Fine Art** specification at A Level. This provides a seamless transition from GCSE level, and in order to be fully prepared from September we would strongly advise taking time to familiarise yourself with how the course is broken down and assessed. Click on the following link to access the current specification;

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-SP-2015.PDF>

## Art Department Blog

Please take time to look at the Art Department online blog in order to access extensive galleries of past student A Level work. We pride ourselves on the high standards students achieve, as well as the variety of responses students produce. Look specifically at the 'Exhibitions' page on the blog;

<https://formbyhighart.wordpress.com/>

## From September...

The breakdown of the Year 12 course from September is as follows;

### September – December 2020 – Introductory project

This project varies each year and is designed to be highly challenging. You will typically explore a range of contemporary artists, developing high level techniques (some new, some built upon) and thinking. You will be expected to think independently and produce exciting work on a range of scales. You will undertake background research into artist styles and implement these into your own exciting responses.

## January 2021 – November 2021 – Personal Study (Main Coursework unit) – 60% of course

You will undertake incisive personal research and present a detailed proposal outlining your intentions for your project.

Then a tailored project will be developed with your teachers. This is an exciting and experimental unit and it the 'core' of your A Level course. You are expected to be highly pro-active and are urged to 'think outside the box'. This major unit progresses into Year 13.

### Tips for over Summer...

You are urged to use this period of time to develop experimental pieces, a sketchbook and research in order to act as a springboard for September. You can be highly **independent** and **experimentation** is key in this time.

### Draw...

Drawing is a crucial skill that underpins all progress at A Level. Remember there are endless ways of drawing!

- Practice '**gestural drawing**' – This is a skill where you are focused on capturing the essence of something in either a limited time period (sketching dynamically) or capturing a moving object, groups of people, animals... You can draw with many different things (pencils, charcoal, paint, graphite, tip-ex... be inventive!)
- Linking to the above, you could **maintain or create your own sketchbook**. Try to create a **drawing a day!** This might be something you spend ages on some days, or minutes on other days! Make it exciting!
- Use '**unconventional materials**' and '**unconventional methods**' – Try drawing upside down, overlapping drawings to create abstract compositions... Draw the same scene or subject from different angles overlapping (you could look at the work of the cubists!)
- Remember, not all drawing needs to be 'perfect' and 'representational'. You could try to **draw expressively with your non dominant hand!** If it doesn't look like what you expect, that is exactly what we want!

### Great drawing websites for ideas...

<https://www.finearttips.com/2013/11/six-creative-drawing-exercises/>

<https://www.creativelive.com/blog/5-drawing-exercises-turn-make-anyone-artist/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/lostindynomy/drawing-exercises/>

<https://creativemarket.com/blog/how-to-do-a-sketch-365-or-sketch-a-day-challenge>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cwne8d2FZ6E>

### Research Artists and Practice Techniques...

You could spend this time looking online at different artists and Art movements to discover artists you admire and find interesting. Practice their techniques, look at youtube videos to find out more. Experiment in their styles... Everything you research and create will come into use at a later stage, so be inquisitive and experimental!

## Watch videos and keep up to date!

There are endless great series' and videos online to spark your inspiration. Here are a few suggestions...

Grayson Perry's Art club - <https://www.channel4.com/programmes/graysons-art-club>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3WshpgSmg4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RjpQMjKUrw>