



Why study Fine Art at Formby High School?

The Art Department prides itself on making Art meaningful, enjoyable and accessible to all. We provide a unique means of self-expression whilst promoting the confidence and desire in students to produce work of a high quality. This is a highly structured and intensive course, with increasing freedom given as the course progresses, enabling students to explore a wide range of Fine Art approaches, including painting, drawing, photography, print-making and 3D design.

Teachers offer extensive support, with lunch time and after school drop-in sessions available. We deliver additional Art workshops after school, providing students with a wider range of skills. The intent of the course is to help students increase their perception and awareness of how to interpret personal subject matter in a creative manner, encouraging an imaginative and creative approach to problem solving, and to develop self-discipline and confidence.

We regularly enter students' work into national competitions, notably the Saatchi Gallery School Competition, and offer educational visits to complement their study and appreciation for the subject.

Staff at Formby High School are driven and passionate about Art and take great pleasure in developing the same enthusiasm and commitment with our A Level students.

What does the course involve?

The A Level Fine Art course comprises of 60% coursework and 40% examination. During Year 12 students are introduced to a range of advanced techniques. The portfolio is the opportunity to demonstrate a variety of practices alongside one extended collection of work based on a selected theme or concept, which will run into Year 13. For the externally set assignment in Year 13, students prepare and complete a full project, culminating in a final piece of work completed in a supervised timescale.

A major part of the Year 13 course is the personal investigation. This is an opportunity to explore a chosen theme in a fully practical manner, which is supplemented with an extended essay of 3000 words. The remainder of A Level marks are awarded based on the externally set assignment. Students select from a range of starting points and produce a clearly defined selection of work in a set amount of preparatory time.

“Fine Art A Level is an incredibly self driven and inspiring subject. Through the course of two years you are not only tutored through several different art styles, you are also encouraged to develop your own artistic style for your project, taking inspiration from artists of your own interest and choice. The teachers provide you with a brilliant range of materials and expert advice to improve your practise as an artist. They are kind and caring individuals who seek to open your eyes to new creative movements and see you succeed as an artist. What I have taken from Art A level is an appreciation for independent learning and a deeper love for new artists and techniques I had never encountered before taking this course.”

Penny chose to come to Formby High for Sixth Form

What can the qualification lead to?

Because of the broad scope of the course, it is a useful subject in combination with many other A Level subjects and is of benefit to those pursuing various university degree courses, as well as to those who wish to follow a career in Art and Design, either through direct entry onto an Art degree course or a Foundation Art course. This course can complement both creative and academic subjects at this level and is highly valued by University providers.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE Art and an interest and enthusiasm for the subject are of paramount importance when studying Art, accompanied by a willingness to develop individual ideas.

Which other subjects complement Art?

- English
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- Geography
- History
- Mathematics
- Music Technology

