

Structure & Specification

Year 1- AS Fine Art 1201B

Year 2- A2 Fine Art 2201B

Syllabus details

The new AQA syllabus will be followed.

What does the course include?

This course focuses on drawing, painting, printmaking and mixed-media, associated visual language and the variety of materials and techniques. You will study the work of other artists and their aims and ideas to help you generate ideas of your own. You will learn to develop your ideas through observational studies and experimental work and to produce finished final outcomes. This course will develop your creativity and independent thinking skills. You will use your imagination and learn to express yourself visually.

AS Unit 1 and A2 Unit 3: Coursework Portfolio

For the Coursework Portfolio you will produce:

- One extended project based on a theme in which you should demonstrate your ability to research, develop ideas and link your work in a meaningful way to related work of other artists. A2 students should produce written material from 1000 to 3000 words in support of their coursework.
- A series of short projects introducing you to various materials, processes and working techniques.
- A collection of figure drawings aimed at improving your observational drawing skills.

AS Unit 2 and A2 Unit 4:

Externally Set Assignment

AS students will choose one of the five starting points set by the examining board. After a period of initial research they will develop idea(s) during 5 hours of supervised examination time. This will later lead to further developmental work and if preferred, to a final outcome.

A2 students will choose one of the eight starting points set by the examining board. During a preparatory period they will research a selected theme and develop ideas for a final outcome, which will then be produced in 15 hours under examination conditions.

How will I learn?

In addition to five hours of lesson contact time a week you will be expected to do a minimum of a further three hours of independent study. You are also obliged to attend Thursday evening life drawing classes for six weeks. You will learn from your teachers who will use various teaching techniques taking into consideration different learning styles. You will also learn from own experience of working on various practical exercises which will heighten your awareness of different aspects of advanced work. You will experiment with materials, explore the use of the formal elements of visual language and work from direct observation. You will use sketchbooks as well as larger pieces of paper to record your research and exploratory work. You will learn from other artists by studying their work through slide presentations, organised visits to galleries, and by using the Learning Resource Centre for independent study. As the course progresses you will be given greater independence in producing a personal response to a theme and in year two you will be encouraged to negotiate your own themes.

All units are marked by your teachers and moderated by AQA examiners. Your coursework accounts for 50% of the mark and the externally set assignment for the other 50%. AS mark contributes 50% to your A level mark.

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

You need good drawing skills and imagination and you must be prepared to try new ideas and to develop your skills. As well as drawing and painting this course is concerned with the meanings and ideas which works of art contain so you must be willing to study and analyse the work and ideas of other artists and you must be good at having ideas of your own.

What are the entry requirements?

5 GCSEs at grades A-C, including a minimum of grade C in GCSE Art or a similar subject. An exception might be made where you can demonstrate ability in art and design.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

This qualification and the portfolio of work you build will enable you to apply to study photography, textiles or art at University.