



Department: Art (Fine Art)

Sixth Form Information Event 2022 FAQs

How is Art A-level examined?

The course is made up of three assessed sections, a 'Personal Investigation', 'Related Study' and the 'Externally Set Assignment'. The Personal Investigation and Related study are coursework-based and makes up 60% of your final grade, with the remaining 40% which is the ESA. The assessment criteria/specification is very similar to that of GCSE, with each assessed section being marked against AO1, AO2, AO3 and AO4 criteria.

Are there any set projects, or can I make my own work?

The vast majority of the course and your creative journey will be directed by you, and this will be facilitated by advice and feedback from your subject teachers. The A Level course is about you taking ownership of your ideas and directing these independently. If you have an idea that you want to develop or a specific media that you want to work in, then we will do our best to support and direct you with this.

What are the results like?

As a consistently high performing department, pupils regularly make excellent progress and achieve in excess of their target/expected grades. Last year pupils achieved 88% A*-B grades, with pupils the year prior achieving 100% A* - A grades. Art A Level is often one of pupils' best grades, across their subjects choices.

Is there any coursework?

Similar to GCSE, the A Level course is 60% coursework, which is comprised of a Personal Investigation and a Related Study. This coursework element is often a benefit, particularly for students opting for other exam-based subjects, as it can help alleviate some of the pressure during examinations.

Is Art A Level as valuable as other subjects?

A Level Art is accepted by all universities and is no differently weighted than any other subject. Many university courses and careers have indicated that they would prefer students to have at least one creative subject option, as this provides evidence of a broader range of skills and understanding. Taking A Level Art would only enhance and benefit a university application, regardless of your university course choice.



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Are there any trips?

You will have the opportunity to attend two weekend residential trips to the Conwy Art Centre. On these residential trips you will be in artist-led workshops, in which you will produce a small body of work. We have also regularly sent and support pupil applications to the regional gifted and talented European Cultural visit (offered by Edsencial and usually visiting Tuscany).

What qualities/skills do I need to study Art A Level?

A Level Art requires an enthusiastic ability to generate and sustain your own creative ideas and concepts. You should have a love and passion for the subject and be dedicated to pursuing your own personal journey and investigation. You should have already developed a strong foundation of technical skills in either drawing, painting, sculpture or photography (ideally a combination). As the course requires a high degree of independence, good personal organisation is essential, as you will be required to manage and take accountability for the development of your work and ideas. A good ability to critically analyse and evaluate the work of artists and artworks is also essential, as it is expected that you will continually engage with critical and contextual sources to support your work.

Can I apply for courses outside The Arts with an Art A Level?

Yes!!

We often support pupils' applications to none-Arts-based courses! Pupils who have studied Art A Level have gone on to study degrees in Medicine, Mathematics, Product Design, English, Creative Writing, Law and many more! Pupils often choose Art A Level to support their applications to other courses as they feel confident that their grade will beneficially contribute to their UCAS points score.

What grade do I need to get at GCSE to study Art at A-level?

There are no grade requirements for studying Art at A-level. However, students who achieve less than a grade 6 at GCSE tend to struggle with the technical demands of the course. The majority of students who go on to achieve A* and A grades at A-level had little difficulty with the GCSE, achieving grades 8/9. However, we have previously accepted pupils onto the course who have not studied Art at GCSE, but this has been in discuss with the Head of Department and these pupils have provided portfolios of work to evidence their commitment to the course.

What teachers would I have?

Mr Ingram and Mrs Johnson are the main teachers at A Level. Usually, the A Level classes are timetabled 50/50 between the two teachers. In year 13, we tend to take responsibility for individual pupils, depending on what Art specialism you are working in. Having access to both teachers provide pupils with the opportunity to benefit from a wealth of experience, feedback and input.

How much homework will I get?

On average you will receive 2 hours of structured homework a week, which is broader the same as the expectation of every other subject area. However, If you are familiar with studying Art at GCSE you will know that creating quality pieces of work can often require a commitment in excess of this expectation. With the

increase in independence at A Level, we also expect you to use some of your non-contact time to work in the department, in our sixth-form area.

What careers can Art A-level lead on to?

There is a wealth of career opportunities in the Creative Arts sector! Over the past few years, the most popular further education and career pathways have been Architecture, Games Design and Concept Art. However, we have also recently supported pupils with applications to Product, Graphic and Interior Design, as well as routes onto Art Foundation Courses. Within the Arts Sector, you could also look at career and further education opportunities in Advertising, Marketing, Photography, Videography, Digital Illustration, Digital 3D modelling, Fashion Design, Film/TV/Digital production, Fine Art, Curation, Book Illustration – to name just a few!

Do I need to buy any equipment to study on the course?

It is essential that you purchase your own Sketchbooks (although these can be purchased from the department). The equipment list wouldn't be dissimilar from your GCSE study, for example, a set of good quality shading pencils, acrylic paints, watercolour paints, graphic pens, etc. It will be essential that you do have the equipment and materials at home to support your independent study, however this can sometimes be purchased/resources through the department. As your projects become more specialised it may be required that you purchase any equipment or materials that can not be as feasible resources through the department, for example, digital software packages, oil paints, printmaking, wet photographic materials, etc.

Will I get help putting a portfolio together?

Yes! The majority of Art-based university courses will require a portfolio of work as part of your application submission and their interview process. We have a lot of experience in the department of successfully pupils' successfully being offered places at some of the best Art Schools and University institutions. We would of course help you organise and present any portfolio requirements and with your practice interviews! We have a long standing tradition of pupils in the department successfully gaining places at their first/ top university course choices!