

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

The GCSE course will be completed within one year and consists of two components, coursework (60%) and an externally set task (40%).

A+D

In the department there are nine staff members: Laura Watt (Curriculum Lead for Art & Design, Film and Media), Andy Davies (Teacher of Art & Graphics), Amanda Ashworth (Teacher of Art & Textiles), Nancy Linihan (Teacher of Photography & Art), Sarah Blaszczyk (Teacher of Art), Carrie Doughty (Teacher of Graphics & Photography) and Kate Tod (Art & Design Assistant).

IDEA

ART

MARKING

The brief will vary, but in general terms we are looking for quality of personal analysis and investigation, the development and evaluation of ideas, or response to stimulus and your ability to solve problems. Fluency with materials and technical skills are important as they help you to get your ideas across and express yourself effectively. Evidence of care, commitment, time spent and preparation are also important considerations.

A written comment is always included with the mark. We aim to return marked work as soon as possible, usually the next working day, sometimes slightly longer with written work. Be conscientious about deadlines and do not leave work until the last minute. You are usually given a week in which to complete homework assignments, as good quality work requires thinking and planning time as well as the time working practically.

These are essential and provide evidence of your ideas and the process of your coursework. Art colleges and Universities expect several sketchbooks to be included in your portfolio.

WORK

Homework for Art & Design subjects averages out around five hours per week. Homework usually set every week and can involve project preparation, thinking and planning, reading and research, as well as practical exercises. Larger projects (eg making) are set over two or more weeks. All students are expected to spend a minimum of five hours a week on their homework. This must be completed to the best of your ability and handed in on time. Students who fail to do this will be required to remain behind after College that evening to complete the work. Students who cannot co-operate with this will incur the college disciplinary procedures and may be asked to leave the course.

DESIGN

ART

STUDENT SUPPORT

The art rooms are available for you to work in during and after college, as many students prefer to use college facilities to work on homework assignments or coursework projects. You may approach any member of the department for help and advice. Some students may require support and extra sessions can be timetabled formally if appropriate. Support sessions, open to all students will be run during the day and after college.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All art students, regardless of gender, race, class, ethnic origin, sex orientation, religion, disability and HIV status are treated equally. The college's policy document is displayed in the department and we draw students' attention to the sections on expectations and the complaints procedure. We work hard to provide a supportive working atmosphere and ask that our students come to any member of the department if they need extra help or clarification of anything that they did not understand. Staff are always pleased to give advice and assistance on project work, folder presentation, further art courses and many other issues. We also expect our art students to be open-minded, without prejudice, receptive to new ideas and sensitive to the feelings and beliefs of others.

MAKING YOUR OWN ARTS

Critical & Contextual Work

The development of critical and contextual awareness is an integral element of all of the art & design courses. practical project must include references to the work artists, designer or maker.

Keep your eyes open and approach new things with an open mind. Ask questions - Why? How? Don't accept things at face value. Don't accept low standards or stereotypes. Always look for good quality and good design and always strive to improve and develop your work. Always try to be inventive and original. Don't work in isolation - look at, value and learn from the work and experience of others. Discuss your work and ideas with your teacher and your fellow students.

MARKING EXAMINATION COURSEWORK

All examination work is marked internally by Art & Design staff according to examination board criteria and it is important to emphasise that whatever their personal likes and dislikes, staff mark objectively and impartially, rewarding good practice and strictly according to exam board specifications.

Work will be reviewed regularly. In order to give you an accurate picture of the current standard and progress of your work, staff will give you both formal and informal feedback on the strengths of your work. Advice could be given on how to improve, or suggestions for new materials and approaches to try as well as identifying weaknesses and gaps in the work. We aim to make all criticism positive and supportive with the end result of increasing your potential and improving your work. This feedback could be given for example: For a section of a project - At the end of a preparation For marking work - For internal examination work - For folder

Your own evaluations are also very important in assessing your progress and the direction of your work. With this in mind, some reviews will require you to reflect and assess your own work in written form.

Drawing in its widest sense is strongly emphasised and underpins all practical work. In choosing a creative subject you have not taken an easy option. Work for all the department's courses will test your ideas generation, design and making skills as well as developing your critical faculties in both practical and written work. Our aim is also that you should enjoy your courses and achieve satisfaction from developing a personal and creative approach to your artwork. You will be expected to work on some projects at home and are encouraged to use the Art rooms in your free time. Staff are always available to help you and discuss your progress. It is not possible to develop your potential or achieve a good examination grade in any Art & Design subject without making a commitment and spending a considerable amount of your own time on your work.

