

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 Blaszcok (Teacher of Art), Carrie Doughty (Teacher of Graphics & Photography) and Kate Tod (Art & Design Assistant).

IDEA

MARKING HOMEWORK

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 responses 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 later 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.

DESIGN

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 supporting with the end result of increasing your potential and improving your work.

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.

MARKING EXAMINATION COURSEWORK

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

MAKING YOUR OWN DECISIONS

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.

The development of critical and contextual awareness is an integral element of all of the art & design courses. Each practical project must include references to the work of artists, designers or makers and these will initially be collated in a Contextual Sketchbook, running alongside other practical work. In studying this work you should be investigating and analysing aspects such as content, technique, historical background, etc. as well as adding observations and interpretations of your own. Some critical work will be developed further, featuring in project sketchbooks and on mountboards. Your subsequent work should be informed by your study of this work and not just be a poor reproduction 'in the style of'. In the Personal Investigation component you will be required to produce an extended piece of writing, between 1000 and 3000 words connecting an aspect of art, craft, design or photography to your practical work. Most students find the study both stimulating and rewarding as it provides them with a broader view, greater depth of knowledge and great personal satisfaction. It has also improved their practical skills and provided them with inspiration and ideas for practical work.

ARTWORK

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.

MOVING FROM GCSE

GCE work builds on your previous experience of art, but the transition to advanced work and a new environment is not always easy. You may experience some difficulty in responding to the amount and the depth of work required and you may find that your marks are quite low until you adjust to the standard of A Level work. Please give yourself time to settle in and talk to staff if you are worried about your work or progress.

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.



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ASSESSMENT

Assessment in A Level Art & Design courses, as with GCSE, has two parts. One Component (Coursework) starts in the first year and builds to a final deadline in January of the U6 and is worth 60% of the marks. Component Two is an Externally Set Assignment, worth 40%, running from February until May in the U6 and includes 10 hours of controlled assessment. All work is practical, with Component One involving a supporting written study in the second year of the course.

