

Fine Art A Level



INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

We are a Central London Art Department committed to developing our students' creativity, independent thinking and cultural capital. We study AQA Fine Art and expect students to develop their own ideas and find ways of expressing them. A-Level students work in an experimental way in response to briefs set by the teacher as well as investigations they set for themselves. We are a small department so we enjoy taking opportunities to work with outside agencies to expand opportunities and enable students to engage as much as possible with the London art world.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Phillipa Prince

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EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course aims to:

- Develop in candidates an understanding of the nature of visual thinking
- Encourage experience in a wide range of materials
- Help to develop an understanding of cultural change and contextual studies
- Develop an awareness of both analytical and intuitive value judgements

Students will be required to produce sketchbooks, work journals, and final pieces for internal and external moderation. Students who study Art at The Grey Coat Hospital spend the first year broadening and deepening their understanding and skills. They visit galleries, attend workshops and develop their own projects. All students at A Level are introduced to the life model through life drawing classes. In the summer term of Year 12 they start working towards Component 1 of the A-level, their Personal Investigation.



COMPONENTS OF STUDY

Component 1 – Personal investigation (60%)

In Component 1, students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), and photographers and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words which supports the practical work.

Component 2 – Exam (40%)

In Component 2, students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Component 1

Personal Investigation

Practical work supported
by written work
of between
1000 - 3000 words

60% of total A Level

Component 2

Exam (over 3 days)
15 hours

40% of total A Level

Exhibition

Students will curate an
exhibition of their work to
be displayed in school in
May of Year 13.

Course Requirements
Minimum Grade 6 at
GCSE Art and English

Other Information

The key to success
in the A Level course
is enthusiasm and
dedication, excellent
drawing skills
independent research,
consistent hard work,
reviewing and improving
work as you go along,
making sure that you
work to deadlines and
being fully aware of how
you are being assessed.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Consistently the department achieves 100% A*-C, with an average of between 50-67% A*/A. 2019 results were 100% A*-C, 94% A*-B and 67% A*/A. 11 out of the 18 students in the class went on to study art, design or architecture.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Residential Trips

We offer the opportunity for all Art students to go on an annual Sixth Form trip to Berlin or Florence. On these trips, students have the opportunity to visit, in Berlin the Pergamon Museum, The Hamburger Bahnhof Gallery, The Berlinische Gallery and The East Side Gallery, and in Florence, the Uffizi Gallery, Galleria dell'Accademia, the Duomo, and the Medici Palaces.



Further opportunities:

- Life drawing
- Take part in ARTiculation, a national public speaking competition
- The Attract Programme at the Royal Academy
- Join the Tate Collective
- Chance to exhibit in a commercial London Gallery
- Numerous visits to galleries such as The Tate, RA, Hayward, Saatchi, White Cube, Whitechapel
- Help design and paint the set for the school play
- Help run KS3 Art clubs and support GCSE students

FUTURE CAREERS

Every year our A Level students go on to Foundation Courses at London Art colleges such as the Royal Drawing school, Kingston University, University of the Arts (Camberwell and Central St Martins) Working Men's College in Camden, Kensington and Chelsea College and Ravensbourne or directly onto degree courses at Universities and Art colleges such as Glasgow, Oxford (the Ruskin), Kingston and Leeds.



Students' degrees prepare them for careers in Art and Design including Media, Interior Design, Fashion, Jewellery, Ceramics, Product Design, Theatre and Film, Theatre/Set Design and Fine Art.

We provide portfolio workshops and practise interview sessions.