

Fine Art A Level



HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

Jenny Bucknall
and Paula Pearson

EXAM BOARD

AQA

INTRODUCTION TO THE DEPARTMENT

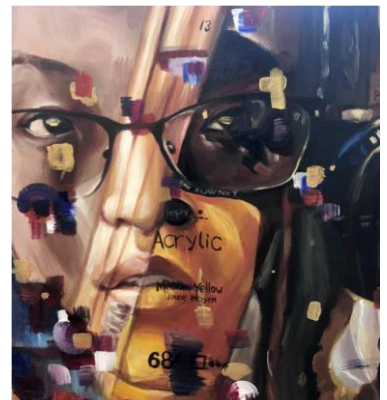
We are a Central London Art Department committed to developing our students' creativity, independent thinking and cultural capital. We study AQA Fine Art and expect students to develop their own ideas and find ways of expressing them. A-Level students work in an experimental way in response to briefs 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.

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

The results of over the last 3 years are 61% A*-A and 92% A*- B. We are exceptionally proud of our students' achievement.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Trips and Residential Visits

Trips are a vital part of the A Level Art course, enriching learning through direct engagement with both historical and contemporary art, design, and culture. We offer a regular programme of visits to leading galleries, museums and cultural institutions in London, carefully selected to compliment current exhibitions and course themes. These experiences enable students to explore diverse artistic practices, develop their critical thinking and deepen their understanding of the contemporary art world.

A highlight is the Year 12 visit to New Designers, a national showcase of emerging creative talent from universities across the UK - from Dundee to Falmouth. This event offers valuable insight into the current trends in art and design, while encouraging students to consider future study opportunities and career pathways within the creative industries.

Trips offer invaluable experiences, allowing students to immerse themselves in diverse cultural and creative environments, deepen their understanding of art, and spark fresh inspiration for their own work.

Further opportunities:

- Participate in ARTiculation, a national public speaking competition supported by the National Gallery.
- Join the Royal Academy's Attract Programme.
- Become a member of the Tate Collective
- Visit leading galleries, including Tate, the Royal Academy, the Hayward Gallery, White Cube, and Whitechapel Gallery.
- Help design and paint sets for the school play.
- Support and run KS3 Art clubs and mentor GCSE students

BUILDING CREATIVE FUTURES

Every year, our A Level Fine Art students' progress to leading art colleges for Foundation Diploma courses, including the Royal Drawing School, UAL and Kingston University. Many also progress directly to degree courses at prestigious institutions, including Cambridge, Glasgow, the Ruskin School of Art, Kingston, Leeds, Nottingham Trent and Manchester. Recent destinations for Architecture include The Bartlett School of Architecture at UCL, Sheffield and Bath.

Fine Art open doors to careers in architecture, fashion, media, interior design, jewellery, ceramics, product design, theatre and film. Through portfolio workshops and interview preparation, we support our students in taking their next steps with confidence.

Through portfolio workshops and interview preparation, we equip students with the skills and confidence to pursue their creative futures.