



What will Year 12 students learn and how many lessons will they have each week?

Year 12 will learn a wide range of skills utilising different media, styles, and techniques. The focus though is to further develop their knowledge and understanding of Art beyond GCSE. They will look at the work of many different artists relevant to the course studied including Ian Murphy. They will study the work of others in a more critical manner, showing an understanding of the style, theme and techniques used by modern and historical artists. The relevance and importance of drawing, testing and experimenting with media is highlighted throughout and especially in the four, one hour sessions they have a week.

What will Year 12 students need to do to get the most out of their lessons?

In all lessons, it is expected that students have a range of media to meet the needs of the course that has been outlined to them. Many come with different drawing/sketching pencils, pastels, and their own small sketchbook to test in. At home, students are encouraged to have a wide range of media like graded pencils, quality colouring pencils, oil pastels, paints etc. Students should aim to always test, test, test. They should look at how they manage the media chosen, the purpose of the work and the progress made, all of this helps gain marks towards the A Level.

How much homework will Year 12 students have in this subject?

All Year 12 students will be expected to work on the tasks set in class and take ideas further at home. Specific homework will be set by the staff teaching the course, but the expectation is that all students are able to independently work on studies, tests as well as experiments. It is a good idea to visit local and national galleries and work first-hand through smaller sketches and test pieces. All students should continue to look at the environment and stimuli around them, take their own photos and produce their own drawings to use as inspiration in class.

Which careers can this subject lead to?

There is a great deal of opportunity for students who study Art A Level. Although a challenging and competitive subject at University and in industry, it is also very rewarding, often allowing those who study the course to take ideas even further. We have had students go on to study at Central St Martins in London, as well as attending Universities across the country, studying courses such as Fine Art, Sculpture, Game Character Design and more. A Level Art allows people to venture into creative digital industries and more hands-on roles in the community. Individuals can go on to sell work, work with local schools and participate in community projects.

Which other subjects complement this subject?

Any creative A Level subject can be complemented by studying A Level Art. However, more common combinations include History, English Literature and Product Design.

Students aiming for careers in Architecture often chose to study Physics and/or Maths alongside A Level Art.

A Level Art is just like GCSE Art, isn't it?

The focus of the Art A Level is to take the skills learnt at GCSE further. It is not simply regurgitating techniques but looking into them in more detail, exploring deeper and analysing in more depth. There is more emphasis on the process and the journey through testing and annotation. You get the opportunity to work in a wider range of scales, with different tools and media. You have the chance to also develop your own ideas further in the personal project, working on ideas, themes, techniques and on art you want to do. This is the chance to be individual and expressive in a way you want to be.

Can I get away with just copying the work of others?

No. It does show some skill of course but as Picasso himself said "good artists copy, great artists steal". The reason for this is that copying a picture by an artist shows that you can do just that, copy. It does not show that you can think for yourself, adapt their work into your own, make your own decisions about the formal elements. Look at the work of an artist, look at what makes it successful and then steal it. Do not just copy a piece by Picasso, look at his work, style, use of colour and then use this on a portrait of your own, a photo, make your own picture using his as influence.

Is A Level Art just practical?

All students on the course must provide evidence of critical understanding. This means that they can comment on the work of others and their own. This is done through note taking, annotation and the use of subject specific language. They must be honest and apply a clear use of grammar and language, making sure that they can clearly explain their own ideas and creative process. Using a varied vocabulary when discussing the work of others is invaluable.