

# Art: AS and A2 Specification

AS and A2 pupils will produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas including painting, drawing,

mixed-media, sculpture, land art, installation, printmaking, film, animation, sound, television, video, photography.

Every A level pupil is expected to attend an after-school session every Monday between 4 and 6pm. These sessions include:

- Life Drawing
- Artist talks
- Artist-led workshops
- Studio time

There is the opportunity for every A level pupil to take part in an Art study trip to a major city in the October half term. The pupils visit galleries and museums and make their own work in response to the city.

## AS Course Outline (AQA)

Unit 1. Portfolio: 50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A Level marks

- A portfolio of materials is submitted which exemplifies work carried out at AS.
- The coursework is marked as a whole.
- Pupils must submit a selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the depth and breadth of the course
- Pupils must submit at least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue.

### 'A Sense of Place'

#### 1. Introduction

The project begins with a Land Art weekend on the coast to collect resources to use once back at school. This is an opportunity for the pupils to make work in direct response to the landscape. They can use photography, painting, drawing, or they can make sculptures using the materials of the land, take casts and rubbings. There are also evening workshops organised so the pupils can extend the ideas from the day.

All work produced over the weekend is taken back to school to be developed into a coursework project.

The weekend helps the pupils to:

- Look at ways to interrogate the space.
- Understand how to collect and use materials

- Spend time learning to take a good photograph
- Deal with making work on site
- Begin to develop ideas

## **2. Critical Studies**

The pupils are taken through a critical studies programme. For the first few weeks they submit a piece of work each week in response to the work of another artist.

- Look at issues to do with the presentation of the information
- Work through ways to select the relevant information
- Look to make connections with the work that they were making in lesson time.
- Offer judgements

## **3. Use of the sketchbook**

- Look at how to document the making process through the use of a sketchbook.
- How to annotate
- How best to present ideas.

## **4. Printmaking**

The pupils are introduced to some basic printmaking techniques as a way of developing images the weekend quite rapidly.

- Mono-print
- Intaglio

## **5. Painting**

The pupils are taken through some painting/ mixed media techniques.

## **6. 3D experimentation**

The pupils are given the opportunity to develop ideas using 3D materials.

## **7. Development**

The pupils spend much of the remaining time working on their projects independently. They make their own decisions about their materials and suitable techniques.

Sketchbooks are submitted each week and written feedback is offered. The students received regular tutorials to support them in the making process

## **'Human Form'**

### **1. Introduction**

The pupils take part in a weekly course of after-school of life drawing. These are led by invited artists and the Art staff. The pupils have the opportunity to work in both 2D and 3D.

There is also a whole day of life drawing at school organised by the Royal Academy Outreach programme.

## **2. Experimental Drawing**

The pupils are taken through a series of drawing exercises in the early lessons.

This is in response to secondary sources and also as an introduction to observing but not copying the human form.

## **3. Critical Studies**

The pupils are given key themes to consider in the early stages of the course. They are introduced to a range of artists that related to the themes and then were to seek an artist who they could connect to.

## **4. Development**

The pupils spend much of the remaining time working on their projects independently.

Sketchbooks are submitted each week and written feedback offered.

The pupils receive regular tutorials to support them in the making process.

### **Unit 2. Externally-Set Assignment. 50% of total AS marks, 25% of total A Level marks**

An assignment is set by the exam board which is issued to candidates on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The pupils have a choice of five starting points and must develop their ideas through to a conclusion by May 31<sup>st</sup>. The work can take any appropriate form.

## **A2 Course Outline (AQA)**

### **Unit 3: Portfolio. Personal Investigation, 25% of A Level**

The pupils have the chance to pursue their own interests as an artist. This takes the form of a personal investigation based on idea, issue, concept or theme. The personal investigation is supported by 1000-3000 words linked to the practical work.

#### **1. Introduction**

The pupils begin by reviewing their work made at AS. It is important to work out their strengths, weaknesses and interests as an artist. Pupils are given a range of challenges to offer them strategies to work out their initial focus for their portfolio. Pupils then put together a short proposal which acts as the starting point for their coursework portfolio.

Pupils are introduced to some new processes such as pin-hole photography and screen printing.

The pupils spend most of their time working on their project independently. Sketchbooks are submitted each week and written feedback is offered. The students receive regular tutorials to support them in the making process.

**Unit 4: Externally-Set Assignment. 25% of Total S level marks**

An assignment is set by the exam board which is issued to candidates on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The pupils have a choice of five starting points and must develop their ideas through to a conclusion by May 31<sup>st</sup>. The work can take any appropriate form.

Pupils need to produce a clearly defined selection of work, which leads to some kind of conclusion. There are 15 hours of supervised hours in which the pupils make their final piece of work.