

**COURSE LEADER** Ms C Chacksfield

**COURSES** A Level Art and Design (AQA)

**HOW IS THE COURSE DELIVERED?** The course is practical and experiential in nature with students being introduced to different media and processes through practical investigation and experiments.

A number of local and national trips and visits provide essential stimuli for you to develop your ideas and responses, enabling you to learn more about artists and the context of their work.

A short international visit to Venice or Barcelona will form an exciting opportunity for students to develop practical work in the Spring Term to further develop ideas in response to the experience of a different cultural context.

**WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?** It's a practical, enjoyable course that will give you an opportunity to develop a host of transferable skills and leadership opportunities.

There are opportunities in the creative industries, Arts administration, museums and in various sectors including marketing, advertising and PR, education, media and publishing, design consultancy, games design and advertising for students who have studied Art A level alongside other subjects.

**COURSE OVERVIEW** You will work in the first term to investigate a theme of your own choice using media relevant to your own independent exploration. Visits to artist galleries and studios, life drawing sessions and specific skills based workshops such as printmaking will help support your idea development.

In the first year a mock exam paper will support

students to gain skills for their final Personal Investigation in year 13. In the spring term, students begin work on an externally set paper as part of the final controlled assessment. You will use your own relevant choice of media for the final exhibition in the Summer term and present your folio of work for moderation.

#### Assessment

There are two components to the A Level course. The first component is worth 60% and is designed to allow you as students to follow opportunities to develop your ideas in response to a range of research contexts.

A critical personal study (a minimum of 1000 words) further supports your portfolio of work and is part of the first component paper produced usually in Autumn Term of the second year of study.

The second part of the course is in response to an externally set thematic paper (ESA) (40%) that will begin in February 2020. Here students 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. This aspect of the course includes preparatory studies and a 15 hour period of sustained focus under examination conditions. (Max 96 marks available)

Both components of work will involve:

- » developing ideas
- » exploring media, developing and applying skills
- » researching, recording, analysing and reviewing
- » creating and presenting outcome(s)

**“Teaching, learning and assessment in the sixth form are consistently challenging for students of different abilities.”**

Ofsted, 2016

## Art A level Transition Work

This bridging work is designed to support you to make the step up between GCSE and A Level in the study of Art A level . The nature of the subject fosters an independent approach to studying so it is beneficial to get started with projects and ideas that are of interest to you and that you are motivated to explore. It will be key to find artists and ideas that you think will inspire you as a starting point to give you something to work with.

It is also important to read around the subject, which you can begin by completing the research activities below and looking at the suggestions for further reading.

### **Reading List :**

Have a look at these books , these offer a good foundation on general key movements in Art and will also give you ideas to think about in relation to Art's role in society. Please **make notes and annotations** when you read any chapters in your sketchbook, gather quotes, ideas and scribbles from key aspects on the content of what you are reading so that you can bring these into your future studies and practical work.

- 'Ways of Seeing' - John Berger
- 'Think Like an Artist' - Will Gompertz
- 'The Story of Art' - E. H Gombrich
- 'Playing to the Gallery' - Grayson Perry
- 'On Sculpture ' - Anthony Gormley

## **Research and Respond : Land Art**

- 1) Choose at least **one artist from the list of different Land Artists** in the powerpoint to **research**. Some will be challenging to you but choose one that will make you work in a different way.
- 2) Find out about their work. Produce at least an **A3 page of research** on their work.
- 3) Use this research to **make your own piece of Land Art** - ideally working out of doors in some way if you can . Don't worry if you are restricted with materials - use your creativity to generate ideas of working in an artists style , playing with shapes and patterns.
- 4) **Photograph the work** to bring to school in Sept . You can show experimentation of this in your own journal too as you develop the piece of Land Art and record its construction.

For the A Level in year 12 other movements and styles of art will be explored with materials but hopefully Land Art will be a good way for you to start, as you can be creative with materials you have to hand. We hope it will also enable you to get outside in some sunshine as it gets warmer and make work out of doors!

## **Practical Task : Making and keeping a personal Journal**

Produce your own journal /sketchbook for the summer term that documents and develops your experience of life in lockdown in an artistic way. Self reflection is a key component of working as an artist so making your own creative response will help you generate ideas that you can build on in your personal investigation in year 12 and 13.

Look at the powerpoint attached for ideas and inspiration - you can make sketchbooks from old books by whitening out pages with paint and collaging into them or using old scraps of paper and folding them into concertina's . There are plenty of ideas on the powerpoint and online if you need help.

Now is the time to develop practical skills so plenty of drawing in different media will develop your confidence and help you make a good start whatever course of study you will embark on as the Autumn terms approaches.

We look forward to seeing your personal journal when you join us in September as a way of sharing ideas and inspiration together.