THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

A LEVEL ART AND DESIGN

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

A-level Art and Design provides students with a comprehensive exploration of artistic expression and creativity. This course encourages students to develop their artistic skills, critical thinking, and a deep understanding of art history and contemporary practices. Through a variety of mediums, students will create and analyse artworks, fostering their artistic growth. The A-level art curriculum offers a platform for personal expression and prepares students for further studies in the arts or related fields, nurturing their artistic vision and cultural awareness.

Activities and enrichment offered in this subject:

- Visits to local and national art galleries and exhibitions
- Entry to regional and national art competitions
- Curate exhibitions
- Workshops with professional artists / guest lecturers

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

Prior learning is essential as well as an interest in and a desire to study art. Students must spend time studying independently outside of the classroom to be successful in this course. We aim to instil a deep interest in the subject, which can be maintained in courses of further education and beyond.

GCSE or equivalent

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
A-level Component 1 Personal investigation	A-level Component 1 Personal investigation A-level Component 2 Externally set assignment

Personal Investigation: In this component, students are required to develop a personal portfolio of artwork based on a theme or concept of their choice. They explore various materials, techniques, and processes to create a body of work that demonstrates their creativity, artistic skills, and critical thinking.

Externally Set Assignment: AQA provides a selection of exam paper themes from which students choose one. They are given preparatory time to develop ideas and concepts before creating a final response during a specified examination period.

Both components are assessed on artistic skill, creative ideas, research, and critical analysis. The final grade is based on the overall performance in these assessments. Students are encouraged to demonstrate their understanding of art history, contemporary art, and their personal artistic development throughout the course.

ASSESSMENT

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
A-level Component 1 Personal investigation	N/A	66.6%
A-level Component 2 Externally set assignment	15 hours	33.3%

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Materials will be provided. However, students are encouraged to buy a selection of their own art materials to assist them in continuing their studies outside of class time. Relevant items can be discussed with the teacher at the start of the course. A coursebook is not required for this subject. However, there is plenty of material available for students to read prior to joining the course. Below is a list of websites that students can research which will help them decide if this course is suitable:

https://www.atxfinearts.com/blogs/news/why-study-art
https://www.studentartguide.com/articles/how-to-analyze-an-artwork

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

Visual art will enhance skills in critical thinking, creative problem solving, critical analysis, reflective practice, and a wide variety of creative practices and materials -based exploration, which are highly valued by universities and employers. Art is popular with students who wish to study a wide variety of subjects at university or enter careers in creative areas such as: architecture, graphic design, media, advertising, fine art, animation, fashion, 3D design, theatre set design, illustration, model making, costume

design, photography, printmaking, textile design, ceramics, silversmithing, digital media, the list is endless. Even if students do not choose a creative pathway at university or in life, success in creative arts is extremely valued by university and future employers.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

Art history, visual and media studies, marketing, advertising, philosophy, journalism, languages and literature studies.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones