

# GCSE Art

## Why study Art?

If you enjoy challenging practical work, you are imaginative and independent and want to develop your creative thinking skills and you enjoy improving and exploring a wide range of art skills then Art could be the subject for you.



## What will you be learning?

There are two units to the course:

**COURSEWORK PORTFOLIO:** The coursework marks make up 60% of your final total and will include more than one project. You will start with a series of different workshops to improve and widen your knowledge of different art materials available to you such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, photographic work, creative textiles and mixed media. You will then be guided through a project consisting of a sketchbook and then final pieces out of your book in a medium of your choice. All through the course you will research a number of artists to help develop your work and skills. Within the coursework there is also a project that is a controlled assignment. This is a project of your choice as before but is more independently led by you.

**EXTERNALLY SET TASK:** Here you have approximately 12 weeks of preparation work with your teachers that culminate in a 10 hour practical exam. It is expected that you would produce a sketchbook as your preparation work and a final piece in your practical exam. This makes up 40% of your total mark.

## What are lessons like?

Quite a lot of them are what you expect really- very hands on and practical! At first your lessons are very much lead by your teacher and you will work to set tasks but as you move through the course you gradually will take the lead with your projects as you start to form an idea of what your strengths are and what kind of artists you enjoy studying. Lessons cover the basic essentials needed to become a creative practitioner. They can vary from observational drawing or painting, to learning what other artists do to inspire your own work. With this information you then develop your own ideas and work on producing a final piece in a medium that suits your style. Quote from an art student- 'art lessons are a nice escape from the hum– drum of everyday life!'

## What can it lead to?

This course is excellent preparation for any pupil considering Art at A Level, and apart from a vast range of Art and Art related courses at university and further education, Art is great because it combines skill based work with wide research skills. You will be developing into an independent creative thinker which universities and employers are keen to take on.

## Want to know more?

You can speak to Mrs Denby, Mrs Wilson or your Art teacher to find out more about the course and discuss your suitability for it.