

COURSE DETAILS

Exam Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8201

Website: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201/specification>

In a world where creative industries are thriving, the range of opportunities for those with Art qualifications are many and varied.

GCSE Art & Design provides an excellent outlet for imaginative and creative students. Good drawing skills are obviously very useful. However, drawing is only one element of the assessment marks. GCSE coursework projects soon develop beyond the drawing stage and thus students who are less able in this area can still gain a good grade.

Students submit a portfolio as their final piece of coursework and an exam project at their exhibition at the end of Year 11. These portfolios demonstrate how students have developed their skills through a full range of media and techniques including drawing, painting, print making (screen and block), batik, ceramics, textiles, graphic design and 3D work. Links are made with arts, crafts and designers of past times and other cultures.

The various skills and techniques taught during the course help students discover and develop their individual strengths and will provide a sound basis for future studies in both Art & Design at A Level, college or university. Students are expected to expand their subject knowledge through their own interests and initiative.

Many successful students from this course have progressed into careers in Art. Recently we have had students who have gone on to study Architecture, Product Design, Fashion, Teaching (Primary), Ceramics and Animation at university.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

COURSEWORK - 60% of final GCSE mark:

- The coursework is developed over a 16 month period from the beginning of Year 10 and completed by the January of their second year of study
- Students mount an exhibition of their work at the beginning of May in Year 11
- This is assessed internally by their teachers and verified by external moderators

FINAL EXAM - 40% of final GCSE mark:

This is in the form of a paper that is given to students at the beginning of January in Year 11. There is a selection of starting points on the exam paper; students choose one starting point to develop. Students complete their exam work and final piece between January and Easter. The exam takes place over a period of 2 days (10 hours) in April.

MRS J RHODES