

Edexcel Advanced Level Award Vocational Applied Art and Design



Entry Requirements

Students should have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSEs (Please note that subjects can only be counted once); national data shows that this course is not suitable for students with an average GCSE points score of less than 37.9. An informal interview with staff concerned is required and students without GCSE Art must discuss and agree progression onto the course with their respective Heads of Art. Students will be expected to supply themselves with clothing protection, e.g. an apron (this may be purchased through the school if desired or independently) or an old shirt.

Course Description

This course differs from the AQA AS/A2 Art 'A' Level in that it opens up the potential of how Art is related to the wider world of industry and work. The two year full-time Advanced GCE in Art and Design provides experience, which combines the advanced skills involved in the production of Art and Design work, with the network of contacts and opportunities required for students to progress to employment or Higher Education. The Advanced GCE is equivalent to two 'A' levels. The course structure will consist of 9 coursework units and 3 tested units for the double award, and 4 coursework units and 2 tested unit for the single award. The units are covered by assignments which are linked to the Art and Design industry. Wherever possible, students will be linked to 'real' assignments in the work place. Students learn about the production of two-dimensional and three-dimensional work through personal investigation of ideas, materials and processes. They also explore the professional practices of artists and other professionals involved with the Arts. The course offers two possible qualifications:

Double Award: 12-unit course - equivalent to two 'A' Levels and carries the same weighting with UCAS.

Single Award: 6-unit course - equivalent to one 'A' Level and carries the same weighting as any other 'A' Level with UCAS.

Learning Style

The course involves the practical hands on exploration of materials, processes and media to develop visual answers to a series of set assignments. Students must produce a journal or sketchbook which illustrates and annotates the development of each unit and how the work impacts on the world outside school. This journal forms the basis of each student /teacher discussion about unit progress and must be presented for each assessment.

Assessment

Assessment is continuous and formalised by regular reviews of each student's portfolio units. A final grade is awarded by the Examination Board based on work submitted for coursework and the controlled test components.

Career Opportunities and Pathways

The course allows students to build a valuable network of contacts and experience which will help them gain employment, or places on more specialised courses in Further Education or Higher Education. Students are expected to visit colleges, universities and prospective employers as part of their studies.

The production and presentation of a detailed and in-depth portfolio of work is therefore critical to successful progression.

Advice and guidance on career pathways is discussed throughout the course.

Subject staff contacts for further information:

Mr Morgan at Kingsmead
Mr Gill at Norton Canes
Mrs King at Blake Valley
Miss Inns at Blake Valley