

Curriculum Information for Parents

Year 11 GCSE Fine Art		
Term	Units of Study/Scheme of work	Key homework and assessments
Autumn	A thematic project is introduced across all Year 11 art groups. Example themes are 'Barriers' and 'Ordinary and or extraordinary'. Students will explore a range of media and processes, but will also be introduced to oil paint. Tasks are initially set by the teacher. Students later take increasing control of ideas and processes leading up to a main work executed in a December mock exam.	Homework is pre-printed and stuck in the student's book. Tasks are set once every other week. Feedback is recorded on the HW sheet in the sketchbook and is made up of a formative comment and grade from A-E *Homework tasks should reflect a minimum of an hours and a half's work. At the end of the project (Christmas break) students submit their folder for formative marking and feedback, using Edexcel GCSE assessment criteria.
Spring	Between January and February half term there is a period of consolidation and improvement for all course work projects. Students review their work and act upon feedback to improve, extend and develop existing work further. Just prior to February half term the externally set exam theme is released and given to students. This unit is worked on for a period of approximately 8-9 weeks. A very short period of studio led work is undertaken while students begin to gather sources in order to respond to the theme in their own way.	Detailed feedback is returned for students to further improve their Autumn term and earlier projects project, if necessary. Homework is set on a weekly basis for the exam unit. Students are able to adapt set tasks to more suitably meet the requirements of their own ideas.
Summer	Activities in lessons are reliant on increasing independent planning by the students as they prepare for the actual GCSE exam.	A 10 hour exam is run over three days. The exam will normally fall around the first week of May. *All supporting work for the exam project is handed in along with the exam piece at the end of the exam. All coursework projects are submitted on the first day after Summer half term. Both units of work are then internally marked and externally moderated by an Edexcel examiner. An exhibition of all work is held one evening in early June.

<p>Recommended resources/text book</p>	<p>No set texts are required. Students are encouraged to use and familiarise themselves with the extensive collection of art books in the school library and any other sources.</p> <p>Having some broad art books, especially on twentieth century art can be very useful to help students with artist study homework and research.</p> <p>Useful books and sources include: The Shock of the New, Robert Hughes The Art Book, Phaidon. Isms, Understanding art, Stephen Little, A & C Black publishers. Ways Of Seeing, John Berger, Penguin Tate website National Portrait Gallery website</p>
<p>How can we help at home?</p>	<p>At GCSE independently visiting Galleries is even more critical to broadening the experience and understanding required at this level.</p> <p>Tate Britain, Tate Modern and the National Gallery are just three of the big galleries that have extensive permanent collections which are free to view. There are also many smaller galleries and museums that are free and hold exhibitions of contemporary art and photography. The Serpentine Gallery is one good example.</p> <p>If you can have a variety of art materials, it will allow greater breadth of response to homework tasks.</p> <p>Look out for television programmes on art and artists. BBC4 is particularly useful.</p>