

A Level Fine Art

If you have enjoyed your GCSE in a Creative Arts subject and wish to continue to develop your creative visual skills at A Level, you have the opportunity to choose one of the three different Fine art courses that SJSF offer.

It is essential that you contact, visit and look round the different departments directly to find out about each course and the different approaches and structure of each course, to choose the right one for you. All three courses are designed to develop your own ideas through the use of traditional and/or digital media, materials, techniques and processes for the purpose of self-expression or reflection. Fine Art may be created to communicate ideas and messages about the observed world, the qualities of materials, perceptions, or preconceptions. It can also be used to explore personal and cultural identity, society and how we live, visual language, and technology. Fine Art allows us to consider and reflect on our place in the world, both as individuals and collectively.

A LEVEL COURSE CONTENT AND SKILLS

The Fine Art Courses available at SJSF are all focused on painting, drawing, print and digital media, encompassing many aspects of the modern interpretation of Fine Art. The courses will equip students to make meaningful and high quality artwork in a variety of media for their portfolio on the Arts pathway or to support further studies in the future.

- Possible disciplines within fine art:
- Painting and drawing
- Printmaking
- Mixed Medias and 3D
- Lens-based image making.

THERE ARE 2 KEY COMPONENTS OVER THE TWO YEARS IN THE A LEVEL FINE ART COURSE:

1. Personal Investigation and portfolio work – comprises of practical work and the personal study. At the start of the course there will be a foundation stage which will equip students with fresh approaches and skills within Fine Art, which will build and extend on your skills and approaches to Fine Art practice. The foundation stage will lead to more independent response work from internally set or negotiated themes during the courses. The personal Investigation incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study. The first component makes up 60% of the A Level grade. Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal

starting points. The personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images.

2. Externally set Assignment – Externally set theme, which makes up 40% of the A Level grade consisting of two elements: preparatory practical and critical work and a final outcome produced in the timed test, which is produced in 15 hours. Students will be given their exam paper in the first months of Year 2 and will complete the exam in supervised timed conditions for them to conclude their ideas with an outcome.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

All work is internally marked and then externally moderated by the relevant board AQA/EDEXCEL/OCR moderator. Formal assessment points throughout the year are followed in the department in line with school policy.

FURTHER STUDY AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Completion of an Art A Level can lead to working in the creative industries with careers such as; fine arts, advertising and marketing, architecture, crafts, product design, illustration, graphic design and fashion design, film, TV, video, radio and photography, IT, software and computer services, publishing, museums, galleries and libraries, performing arts and general visual arts or a creative subject can be used by students as a facilitating subject, which is desired in many different careers for independent thinking and confidence in problem solving. It is usual that students will follow a one year foundation course, or a direct entry place at a University course at the end of the A Level.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If you are interested in taking art to A Level you must be committed and focused to the subject, having confidence and enjoyment in visual language. Enjoy taking risks, learning new techniques and thinking freely and independently.

The minimum entry requirements for level 3 academic study apply. In addition, applicants will require a Grade 6 in GCSE Art along with a portfolio review.

Please contact the individual schools directly and visit the departments to gain more insight into how each of the courses are differently structured.