

Art and Design

Fine Art specialism

AS/A level - Edexcel

What's it all about?

The art and design A levels build on a structure that most of you are familiar with from GCSE art. Students are encouraged to engage with the visual world around them, recording what they see and experience through drawing and/or use of digital photography. These initial observations are then developed through experimentation. These experiments help students to develop a sense of aesthetic awareness, an understanding of the potential that different media hold and an intuitive awareness of how accidental discovery can be exploited. The work of other artists is explored and analysed, with students adapting artists' ideas to help them with the development of their own themes. Final pieces are then produced depending on the area of interest that students choose to follow.

What are the entry requirements?

9-4 in either GCSE art and design AND 9-4 in GCSE English language.

If you are considering further study of art and design these A levels are the pathway that most successful students take, leading to an art and design foundation course, which in turn leads to degree level study. The department has established contacts at local foundation courses. All students who have chosen to take this route with King Charles I art department have been successful in their applications to the next level of art and design study.

If you are considering non art/design degree courses at university, these A level courses have a proven reputation of academic rigour, combined with creative problem solving, that academic degree courses are looking for. Again the department has enjoyed years of success with students moving on to prestige institutions to follow humanities/science/arts based degrees.

What will I learn on this course?

A level units are broadly themed and very open ended to encourage varied, individual responses. Students are supported throughout the course, but at the start of Year 12 are given close support and direction to build a body of skills that they can then call upon later in the course. Media that you will encounter and choose to later specialize in include: textiles, ICT digital media, printmaking, 3D construction, painting, drawing and mixed media. Students often choose to dip in and out of these areas as their own ideas develop. The course is flexible enough to accommodate this. Having a sense of curiosity about the work of other artists/photographers is essential. The interchange of ideas that this creates is essential to create an exciting, striking folder of work.

How will I be assessed?

60% coursework.

40% examination component (developed in discussion and with support from staff over a three month period at the end of the course). There is no final written examination. However, students are required to produce a 3,000 word personal study.

Both coursework and the examination component are assessed through an end of course exhibition supported by extensive sketchbooks/work journals.

What do your current students say?

"The freedom to explore a wide variety of resources and styles."

"Thorough support and input from staff." "I feel stretched and challenged."

"Individual learning, individual outcomes."

Is there anything else I need to know?

Our students are always encouraged to interact with the work of other artists/designers. To assist with this a visit programme is organized. Students are expected to participate in this programme. Students are encouraged to take learning beyond the classroom working out of doors and on location on a regular basis. Artists, designers and ex-students are invited into school to discuss their own practice and develop student skills through workshop activities. There are established links with art foundation courses. All applicants have been successful to date.

Non art degree courses value the creative problem solving skills that our students bring to their studies. We have an established reputation for academic achievement, strong results/high UCAS point scores. Career pathways include fashion, film, jewellery, product design, spatial design, stage design, textiles, fine art, graphic design, illustration and architecture.

Who can I contact for further information?

For more information, please contact us via the following link on our website:

<https://www.kingcharlesschool.co.uk/contact/>