

Key Stage 4 Art

Intent

Our GCSE Art curriculum empowers students to explore the formal elements of art while developing technical proficiency, creative independence, and personal expression. Through open-ended project briefs and artist studies, students refine their skills and discover their unique artistic voice. The curriculum fosters resilience, experimentation, and problem-solving, encouraging students to learn from mistakes and take creative risks. By engaging with a wide range of materials, techniques, and concepts, students build a diverse and high-quality portfolio that reflects their growth and individuality.

Implementation

Students follow a two-year structured curriculum that balances skill-building with creative freedom. Lessons are designed to:

- Introduce and revisit key techniques (e.g. drawing, painting, clay work, mixed media)
- Explore formal elements such as line, tone, texture, colour, and composition
- Study artists and movements to inspire personal responses
- Develop independent projects based on open briefs
- Encourage experimentation and refinement through sketchbook work

WAGOLL (What A Good One Looks Like) examples, demonstrations, and visual aids support clarity and ambition. Students engage in research, idea development, and practical problem-solving, including home-based tasks. Displays and peer critique foster a culture of reflection and growth.

Impact

By the end of the course, students are confident in applying a wide range of techniques and processes to communicate ideas effectively. They produce a personal portfolio that meets or exceeds GCSE standards and reflects their individual style. Students are well-prepared for the externally set assignment in Year 11, demonstrating independence, creativity, and technical skill.

The curriculum equips students with transferable skills—such as visual analysis, resilience, and creative thinking—that support success in further education and creative careers. Many students choose to continue with A-Level Art or related pathways, having built a strong foundation.

Assessment

Assessment is structured around the four GCSE Art Assessment Objectives (AO1–AO4):

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations informed by artist/contextual studies

AO2: Refine work through experimentation with materials and techniques

AO3: Record ideas, observations, and insights relevant to intentions