



Art GCSE

The Art and Design course at K.E.S. is aimed at students who enjoy being creative, are driven and can work independently. The course is structured to build upon and develop the broad range of media used at Key Stage 3. It is recommended that students wanting to select the Art and Design GCSE achieve an A1 or A2 by the end Year 8. This level of achievement ensures that the students have demonstrated the practical skills required to ease the transition from Key Stage 3 to GCSE.

Knowledge and understanding

Students will gain a working knowledge of media, materials and techniques on both a 2-D and 3-D basis. The Art Department is a vibrant and exciting place where students take great pride in their work, producing a diverse range of outcomes. Students are encouraged to explore a variety of methods and techniques as well as engaging with a range of artists' work before they become more specialised in their chosen approach. Students who have studied Art at K.E.S. have continued on to study courses such as Fine Art, Graphic Design, Architecture, Illustration, Photography and Product Design. Much of this is due to the broad subjects that are taught. We have a varied selection of media that is available to GCSE students. In one lesson there may be students drawing, painting, setting up photo-shoots, using the sewing machines, print making or creating sculptural works.

Coursework and Examinations

Currently the GCSE requires students to submit one coursework project and one examination project. The coursework will account for 60% of the GCSE. The remaining 40% is covered by an examination project where students produce a body of work around a selected theme and produce a final response under examination conditions.

In Year 9 the students will complete two teacher led projects that enable them to develop their skills and knowledge of how to meet the GCSE coursework criteria set in Year 10. These projects will also allow them to explore different techniques and materials, so that they can identify which areas they are able to excel in. In Year 10 the students will start their GCSE coursework. All coursework will be submitted by the end of the Michaelmas term in Year 11. The examination project will start at the beginning of the Lent term in Year 11.

Art Trips and Artist Visits

Visits are organised to support the teaching and learning of GCSE Art and Design. Recent visits have included Tate Modern, Tate Britain, Saatchi Gallery, Birmingham Art Gallery, Ikon Gallery. Artist workshops have included Ian Murphy, Angela Maloney, Kevin Griffiths and life drawing.