

A level Fine Art

Introduction – an outline of the course

Fine Art A-Level is a tough, but rewarding course. If you love Art, and want to make Art, you will succeed! You will find your own style as an artist, and will grow and flourish in this style as the course progresses. Fine Art at A level will give you the opportunity to improve your artistic skills and develop your creativity. You will experience a wide range of activities in two and three dimensions and be encouraged to develop your own personal style.

As you may know, 60% of your assessment is your “Personal Investigation” which means you can choose to study anything you want within Art, with guidance from your teachers and peers. You will start this investigation at the end of Y12.

40% is your exam, and much like your GCSE, you will get starting points to choose from and then a controlled assessment at the end.

What will we be studying in the first half term?

In September you will start by doing a series of small units to widen your knowledge and experience of Art. You will work on abstract sculptures, making our own sketchbooks, urban painting, human form before starting to work on your Personal Investigations. You will study a range of artists and practitioners to influence the development of your work, and you will create sketchbooks to document your creative journey.

What can I do that will help me prepare for A level Fine Art?

One of the important ways that you can prepare is to immerse yourself in the art of yourself and others. Make drawing an everyday task. Draw whatever you can see, sketch, paint and explore. This could form part of your gap task. You can also visit galleries and sculpture parks. In Yorkshire we are spoilt for galleries, with the Sculpture Triangle right on our doorstep, as well as fabulous galleries such as Salt’s Mill, Cartwright Hall, Leeds Art Gallery, The Hepworth and many more just a train ride away.

You may wish to use some of your summer to carry out some background reading and preparation. We strongly recommend a look at the Tate website and ArtUK, or simply find some Art books to look through and read. We have plenty in the department and we are happy to lend them out!

There are also programmes such as Portrait Artist of the Year, Landscape Artist of the Year and the Great Pottery Throw Down which really give you an insight into the work of other artists!

Summer Gap Task and where to find this

The best way to prepare for your A level in Fine Art is to complete the summer gap task that has been set.

If you complete the tasks over the summer, then you will be using the skills that you have developed during your GCSEs. We are mostly keen, however, to see your personal responses. What do you want to say with your Art? Show us something about yourself, your life, your opinions and ideas. All of the information is in the task PowerPoint.

On the [school website](#), if you click on Sixth Form and follow the list until you see Year 11 into 12 Gap Tasks. Click on this and find the Fine Art task.

You don’t have to complete this work in one go, in fact we strongly recommend chunking it and completing it over a long time to get to a better, more refined outcome, and build your skills.

We are really looking forward to seeing you in September and working with you so that you achieve your goals and aspirations.