

A Level Art Curriculum Map

Introduction

Our long standing A Level course at Bishop Vesey's aims to nurture an interest in, an enthusiasm for, and an enjoyment of Art. It sets out to enable individuals to develop intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities.

The two-year course is delivered by two experienced Art practitioners, who relish the opportunity to work with Post 16 students and encourage them to aspire the highest possible standards. Students engage in a one-hour Art lesson each day across a typical week, with opportunities to work in the department outside of structured lesson time.

Year 12 and 13 students are taught in combined lessons and our teachers carefully plan lessons to make sure the needs of all students are met. Both cohorts benefit from collaborative working with the adjacent year.

For this qualification, we have selected the Fine Art endorsement, that is sub-divided into four disciplines:

- *Painting and drawing*
- *Printmaking*
- *Sculpture*
- *Lens based image making*

Students are required to work in one or more of these disciplines to communicate their ideas. Teaching specialists can fully support students in all aforementioned disciplines.

Course component

Unit 1-Personal Investigation

- Worth 60% of the overall A Level grade.
- Begins September of Year 12 and concludes end of January Year 13.
- A broad based theme chosen is chosen by teaching staff but widely interpreted by individual students, resulting in a personal response. Individuals are encouraged to start thinking about/working towards this as part of their summer task.
- This is marked out of 72, with 18 marks available for each of the assessment objectives.

Overview of content

This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s).

At the start of the course students will have access to moderated exemplar material of A* quality to help them understand what is required from them to secure the highest possible grade and also to highlight ways that former students have explored the given theme.

In addition to the practical element of this unit, students are expected to produce an essay that is marked against the same assessment objectives and is worth an additional 18 marks, thus making the total marks available for this unit 90.

Students are introduced to this post UCAS exams in Year 12 and are required to choose a topic that relates to their current practice, and then to research it over the summer break and produce a plan of procedure that clearly outlines their intentions. They begin writing the essay on their return to Year

13 and this process is well scaffolded and closely monitored by staff. This is to be completed by the end of January in Year 13, alongside the practical submission.

Assessment objectives

Students must:

AO1

Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding

AO2

Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops

AO3

Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress

AO4

Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

At the start of the course, we fully induct our students and as part of this we require them to complete a skills audit and short questionnaire. This serves to help us learn about their artistic pursuits at GCSE and also gives us an appreciation of where they feel their strengths and weaknesses are, in respect of different media, techniques and processes.

Using the summer work as a springboard, for the first term students partake in a series of workshops that aim to consolidate and extend their repertoire.

From January onwards, students drive their individual project ideas forward in negotiation with their subject teachers.

Course component

Unit 2-Externally Set Assessment

Worth 40% of the overall A Level grade. The exam paper is released on February 1st that officially signals the start of the exam preparatory period. Students are presented with a broad based theme and suggested starting points. Preparatory work comprises both practical and written development. The exam period concludes with a 15-hour period of sustained focus under exam conditions. Individuals are expected to complete a final outcome extending from their preparatory studies. This is marked out of 72, with 18 marks available for each of the assessment objectives.

Overview of content

This component allows students opportunities to generate and develop ideas, research primary and contextual sources, record practical and written observations, experiment with media and processes, and refine ideas towards producing personal resolved outcome(s) in response to an externally set theme.

Extra-curricular content

A six-week life drawing course at Birmingham Metropolitan College, situated next door. This normally takes place in January of both Year 12 and 13 on a designated night for a couple of hours after school. This offers students a great opportunity to develop their drawing skills, and, providing it relates in some way to the content of Unit 1 and/or 2, it can be submitted for assessment purposes.

For four consecutive years we have encouraged students to partake in ARTiculation, a nationally acclaimed public speaking initiative designed to promote the appreciation and discussion of visual culture. We have enjoyed success over the years, with students being placed in the top 3 of the local heat and also competing at regional level.

Historically, we have taken students out of school to visit UK Art galleries and exhibitions on an annual basis. More recently, this has taken place in February, and serves to inspire and inform Year 12 students as they progress with their personal investigation and also Year 13, as they embark on the exam preparatory period. This has always proven an invaluable experience for our young artists.

In July, for the last three consecutive years, we have been fortunate enough to have access to the Argentia Gallery, located in St. Paul's Square, Birmingham. This has given our KS4 and 5 students an opportunity to exhibit their work and in many cases sell and/or take on commissioned work. It is always a thoroughly enjoyable event, and it is wonderful to see our students receive the recognition that they are thoroughly deserving of.

Results

In 2019, all of our students attained an A* grade and went on to study architecture, aeronautical engineering and history.