

Course Outline

If students are creative, enjoy experimenting with new techniques and are keen to work independently then the GCSE Art course is for them! Art at The Oakwood Academy provides students with the opportunity to explore new skills and materials whilst also developing their own artistic strengths and interests.

The course is broken down into two components: The Portfolio (Coursework) and the Externally Set Assignment (Examination).

At the start of Year 10, students will be provided with a teacher-led project theme in which they will explore drawing techniques, research artists and experiment with a range of mediums. Although the project title is set by the teacher, students are expected to work independently and ultimately, as the course progresses, begin self-directing their work in terms of ideas and materials. Students will develop this coursework unit throughout Year 10 and complete this in the first term of Year 11 when they will create a 'final piece'.

The Externally Set Assignment begins in the January of Year 11 and work is carried out in lessons and at home. Students are given a project title to explore which is set by the exam board. These titles are broad and open and are designed to allow the students to develop their own ideas and work in an individual way. Students are required to produce a timed, supervised final piece for the project, which is carried out in the classroom over 10 hours.

Throughout the course, students will be provided with the opportunity to experiment with a range of materials, techniques and skills including drawing, painting, collage, printmaking and photography. Students will also be given the chance to attend a gallery/museum trip as part of the course to broaden their knowledge and understanding of artwork and artists.

Assessment

All work produced for the Portfolio and for the Externally Set Assignment is supported by research which is intended to inform a student's own practical studies. Students will need to discuss this research along with their own thoughts and opinions through annotation notes in their sketchbook, but there is no written exam in GCSE Art.

The Portfolio is worth 60% of the final GCSE grade and the Externally Set Assignment is worth 40%. Assessment for both components is based on the following criteria:

- Developing ideas and investigating the work of artists, art movements and cultures.
- Recording relevant ideas and observations through drawing, photography and annotation.
- Refining ideas by experimenting and using appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Creating a personal final piece (or pieces).

Progression/Further Study

Arts/Media/Graphics courses at College and University. The Creative Industry is still one of the UKs fastest growing sectors of employment. Students who choose to study GCSE Art could go on to explore careers in architecture, illustration, jewellery making, photography, scenic design, teaching and tattoo artistry, as well as in advertising and the media.