

## A Level ART



A level Art is a two-year course divided into two components; the **personal investigation** (component 1) and the **externally set task** (component 2). The personal investigation consists of a body of practical work and a written **related study** created during four terms and counts for 60% of the overall grade. The externally set task consists of a final piece created during a fifteen-hour examination in the Summer term of the second year, as well as the preparatory work produced prior to the examination. The externally set task and preparatory work count for 40% of the overall grade.

The two-year course is a logical continuation of GCSE Art. We follow OCR GCE Fine Art (specification code H601), because it is the broadest and most inclusive specialism under the Art and Design umbrella, offering the greatest opportunities for our students. They can refine traditional skills of drawing, painting, and printmaking, but they can also work in sculpture, film, mixed media, and installation.



The new A Level Art specification allows Art students to investigate their interests and ideas. Possibilities develop through experimentation, refinement and selection. It is designed to encourage creativity, independence and an analytical approach to materials, techniques and concepts. Students are required to find personal direction and develop individual specialist skills.

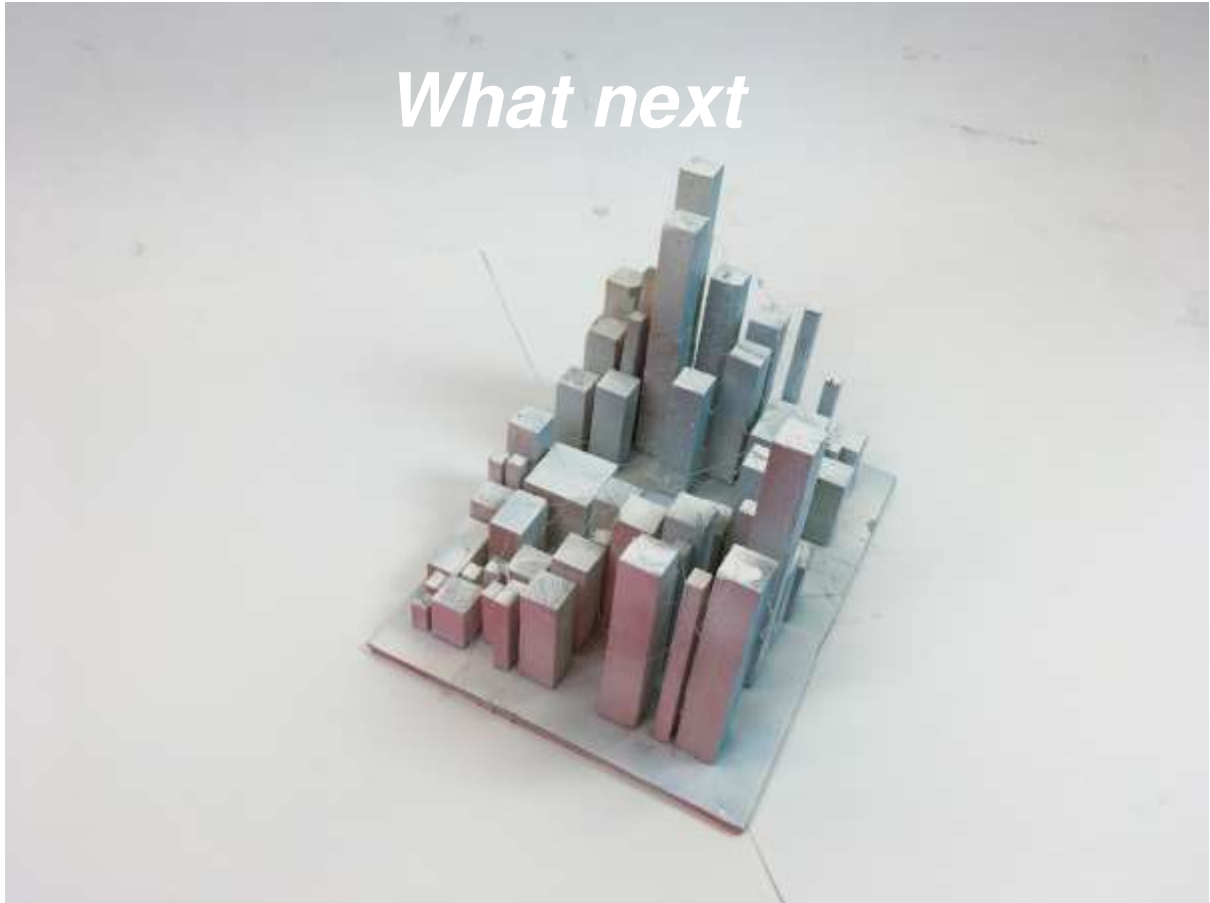
The seven lessons per week take place in our excellent senior Art studios in the Art department, and students are also asked to attend four extra hours of Art Focus Time per week. This is a compulsory 'prep' time that takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 16:00 to 18:00. It allows students to work independently and fosters collaboration and peer assessment. It also eliminates the need to take work home or to the boarding house.

In addition to the regular lessons we organise sixth form Art trips, take part in Art competitions and invite speakers to talk or provide practical courses to our student cohort. All of these co-curricular activities help our sixth form to enhance their cultural capital and knowledge of the subject, while gathering visual research which will feed into their personal investigations. Recent trips to Los Angeles and Berlin were very well attended and received excellent student feedback.



There are plenty of reasons why someone would opt to study Art at A level. It may be that they want to consider a creative subject at a university such as Art, History of Art, Architecture, Digital Animation, Games Design or Fashion, to name a few. It may be that they want to study medicine or dentistry and will benefit from having a qualification that shows evidence of hand-eye co-ordination. It may just be that they enjoy the creative aspect of the Fine Art course and the freedom it gives them to explore other areas of study such as science or humanities subjects in a visual way. The most important reason is the enjoyment of making and appreciating Art. Our most successful students are the ones who choose the subject because they enjoy it. The vast majority of university courses (unless stated otherwise on their website) would welcome a high grade in A level Art.

## *What next*



The main aim of our scheme of work for A level Art is to create a course which is demanding practically and academically while allowing students to take ownership of their work and their learning. The course encourages exploration, originality, risk-taking, independence, critical analysis and reflection and an ability to think creatively to solve problems. These are transferable skills which are essential for success in all areas of study and in all working environments. In recent years our Art A level graduates were offered places in some of the best universities in the UK and the US to study an array of subjects. Central Saint Martins, the Bartlett School of Architecture UCL, Goldsmiths College, Courtauld Institute of Art, St Andrews and Parsons School of Design have all offered places to our graduates in recent years.

# *Facts*



## **Academic Record:**

We have a very healthy number of students opting for A Level Art every year, and we currently teach 24 A Level (Y12/13) students. We value the creative aspect of this subject but also want to achieve an outstanding result: last summer 92% of our students achieved grades A-A\*.

## **Course Specification:**

Art & Design

Fine Art                      OCR A Level (H601)

The A Level is made up of TWO components, both of which are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 01: Personal Investigation, 120 marks, 60% of the total A Level

Component 02: Externally Set Task, 80 marks, 40% of the total A Level

For an informal discussion about A level Art, contact [nikolas.arvanitis@epsomcollege.org.uk](mailto:nikolas.arvanitis@epsomcollege.org.uk)