



Whitworth Community High School Art Department

Teacher in Charge/Faculty Leader:

Faculty Head: Mrs D. Goff

Teacher of Art: Ms C Walsh

AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design Learning Overview 2026-2027

Organisation of the classes:

GCSE Art, Craft & Design classes are taught in mixed ability groups in one hour lessons twice weekly in Year 10 and three times a week in Year 11.

Key Concepts

Pupils study the AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design curriculum at Key Stage 4, which promotes learning across a variety of experiences and through the exploration of a wide range of two and three-dimensional techniques and materials.

A holistic approach to learning and development facilitates pupil attainment in relation to the four key areas of assessment:

AO1: Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2: Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4: Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What skills do I use in this subject?

- Application of a broad range of two and three-dimensional media using a variety of tools and processes including: pencil, pen, ink, print-making, paint, collage, mixed media, photomanipulation, textiles, mixed media construction and ceramics.
- Recording of ideas, observations and insights in visual and/or other forms to the highest standard possible
- Development of ideas clearly informed by contextual and other sources
- Explorative skills through open-minded experimentation with materials and processes
- Use of annotation to analyse and assess own work and that of others, justifying personal development choices
- Design and creation of well informed, yet imaginative and original personal responses.

Students are wholly encouraged to develop their own personal identity and pursue unique, creative and original pathways as they progress through the course.

What will you be learning?	How will you be learning?
<i>Year 10 Portfolio Project 1: Close Up</i> ● Fluid structure of a GCSE project in line with AQA assessment objectives ● Key presentational skills ● Effective written analysis and annotation skills ● Use of photography as a tool for research and idea generation ● Effective application of acrylic, coloured pencil, graded drawing pencils, pen, watercolours, ink and additional two-dimensional media ● Effective application of mono and lino printing processes ● How to make informed designs about the development of work, including translation into three-dimensions ● Compositional techniques and how to apply them when selecting from images and creating artwork <i>Year 10 into Year 11 Portfolio Project 2: Major Project</i> ● Analysing a theme ● Effective and meaningful independent research ● Working independently to given deadlines ● Unique project development inspired by informed personal choices ● Independent exploration of relevant media and processes ● Creative development of ideas and creation of meaningful personal responses ● Refinement in the representation of the elements of art <i>Year 11 (January to April): Externally Set Task</i> This element of the qualification sees students respond to their choice of seven starting points provided by the exam board. They will draw on their understanding of project structure to work independently within specified time constraints; researching, developing and exploring their ideas in a logical, justified and original manner. A ten hour 'exam' period allows pupils to produce a final meaningful and personal response that reflects their creative journey.	● Whole class demonstration, discussion and idea generation ● Independent and peer discussion and idea generation including 'think, pair, share' ● Whole class, peer and self-assessment to inform progress ● Through the exposure to and exploration of a broad range of media and techniques ● Experimentation and learning from mistakes ● Exposure to exemplar work (WAGOLL and WABOLL) ● Contextual studies (analysis of existing artwork from different cultures, eras, artists and designers) ● Recall and retention activities ● Independent research

How will your learning be assessed? <i>The Portfolio of Work (completed throughout Year 10 and the Autumn Term of Year 11) generates 60% of the students' final grade in this qualification.</i> <i>The remaining 40% is generated from the 'Externally Set Task' (assigned in January of Year 11) that culminates in a ten- hour supervised assessment period.</i> - Regular teacher, self and peer assessment will occur in a variety of forms including: frequent verbal feedback, assessment of progress and outcomes in relation to task success criteria, recall and retention activities, use of WAGOLL and 'action' tasks. - Summative marking occurs at the end of the scheme of work based on the AQA GCSE Art, Craft and Design Assessment Criteria.	Home Learning Students are expected to spend a <u>minimum</u> of two hours a week on their artwork outside of school. Tasks may be linked to recording, annotation, research or the continuation of classwork. Tasks may be personalised to the individual to ensure the maximum possible progress within areas identified for development. Dedication to the subject out of school hours is a key factor in pupil success within this subject. The achievement of Grades 7 and above requires a significant investment of time and commitment to a consistently high standard of outcomes and thorough project development.
Equipment needed? We encourage pupils to have access to a range of art equipment at home, but will always lend equipment from the department where needed. Equipment useful for the art course is: - a range of drawing pencils from 2B up to 8B - soft, blendable coloured pencils - watercolour paints - acrylic paints - black fineliner pens - white pens - a range of coloured papers - gluestick	How can your parents support your learning? - Ensure class and homework tasks are completed to a good standard in line with given deadlines - Show an interest in your child's artwork- question them about the media and processes they have used and their ideas for development - Encourage the use of YouTube tutorials in researching and practising artistic processes and viewing posts of previous GCSE sketchbooks - Facilitate trips to galleries/museums/sculpture parks to allow your child to experience artwork on different scales and in different media at first hand - Encourage the use of photography when out and about to record observations
SMSC Links – Focus on Aspirations - Peer relationships and social skills are constantly developed through discussion, structured assessment opportunities and sharing of opinions and ideas - The study of artworks from different periods in history, cultures and social contexts facilitates awareness, respect and tolerance of the experiences, beliefs and philosophies of others - Pupils are encouraged to show pride in their work, celebrating their own achievements and those of others - Career links are built into lessons to help broaden pupil knowledge of the applications of art and design within the real and working world	What extracurricular activities or enrichment opportunities are available? GCSE pupils are welcome to continue with their artwork in the department afterschool on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4pm. It is hoped that a number of opportunities such as workshops from visiting artists and external visits will be facilitated in the 2026 - 2027 academic year.