

Coombe Sixth Form Art & Design A Level



Jessica

"I'm currently studying Art, Psychology and English Literature and hope to progress onto an Art Foundation at the University of Creative Arts in Epsom. As well as giving me the support I needed in my subjects, Coombe has really helped me choose my next step and decide what to study at university."



Art & Design

What does studying Art & Design involve?

Art and design stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides visual, tactile and sensory experiences and a unique way of understanding and responding to the world. This course enables you to use and understand art, craft and design as a form of visual communication, to have confidence in reading and evaluating visual images and artefacts. You will also develop your ability to experiment and explore a range of media to realise your intentions.

We teach from a fine art perspective – you will be expected to draw, paint, print, photograph and sculpt your observations of the world around you, developing these through sustained experimentation and by making connections with a wide range of other artists' work.

The main element of the course is practical art making in the studio, although you will also be introduced to key conceptual and analytical theories and be expected to undertake written analysis. You will need to be able to research independently and to have your own ideas about issues and your immediate environment - the world in which you live.

What skills will I develop and where could studying this subject lead?

Aside from the obvious essential practical skills, studying Art & Design develops your creative and visual awareness; the ability to undertake independent research, and to analyse and interpret images. You gain an ability to construct a personal point of view, and discuss this with others. As the subject allows you to express and realise your own ideas, you gain confidence and have the opportunity to exhibit and present your work at the successful summer exhibitions. Art & Design is an excellent creative A level that enhances research and presentation skills, strengthens understanding of other subjects. It is the pathway into a host of practical and theoretical creative subjects at university level.

Most students go on to study an Art Foundation course at university, which is a one-year course with degree style teaching and facilities, enabling you to specialise your career in the arts, and produce a professional portfolio for entrance onto a degree course. There are over 5,000 different practical creative courses on offer at degree level, from Computer Games Design to Fashion Design and Fine Art.

Modules that you will cover and assessment details

The A Level consists of one coursework module and one taught exam module. In the first year this will be broken down into smaller workshop based units, looking at skills ranging from printmaking, painting, sculpture, photography, to critical theory and presentation. Initial projects are based around a set theme which is used to develop ideas and skills. Classwork and homework is structured around the assessment criteria, focusing on visual recording, the exploration and analysis of a range of traditional and contemporary artists and photographers, and experimentation with a broad range of media.

In the second year, you gain increasing independence working to your own ideas, with support from your teachers. There is also a contextual studies element in the course, students are required to write an essay based on ideas they are exploring in their practical work.

Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

We require you to have at least a grade 6 in a creative subject. This could include: Art & Design, Photography, Textiles, Resistant Materials and Graphics.

Which other subjects does it combine well with?

Most students studying Art & Design are visually creative, and therefore combine this subject with other creative options such as Graphics and Textiles. Choosing one or more creative subjects extends your ability to create a visually impressive portfolio to proceed onto degree level. It also requires good personal organisation to cope with the pressures of heavily coursework-laden subjects.

Similarities between GCSE and A Level

Students will find many similarities between their Year 11 and A Level works. Studying nine lessons over two weeks, with the same time required for homework is a big step up, and we expect more rigorous in depth investigation and research. The expectations for the students are also different. We want you to become independent learners, arriving to lessons equipped to learn, with ideas and insights that come from your own perspective. This means that you will need to bring some resources to lessons, such as objects / images / research that you have conducted on your own.