

Fine Art at Samuel Whitbread Academy

Intent

The GCE in Fine Art follows on in nature and practice from GCSE Art, with the emphasis on the development of the students' visual language and their individual responses to a variety of approaches and themes. A level consists of two units: Unit 1 incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work and a personal study, based on the student's own choice of subject. Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points. Unit 2 is an externally set assignment that enables students to pursue and develop their own personal style.

The course is studio based and the students work in different media – paint, clay, plaster or mixed media – and will develop new and advanced skills in painting, 3D work, installations and printmaking. Students will either specialise in one area of study or develop ideas in a variety of materials. Knowledge and critical understanding of art and design is an important aspect of the course, and students are expected to visit London and regional galleries as often as possible - with the academy as well as independently.

Extra-curricular life-drawing classes provide students with an opportunity to enhance their drawing skills within a professional environment. In addition, a visit abroad may be organised to coincide with the beginning of the externally set assignment.

Implementation	Key Stage 5: Year 12	<p>In the first 2 terms of the course we introduce students to a wide range of skills and techniques through a guided project. Through contextual studies, research and practical experimentation students develop an understanding of the disciplines within Fine Art and the Assessment Objectives within the course. As the project progresses students are able to start focusing on a specific area of interest to produce an individual and personal outcome. This project can become supporting work for component.</p> <p>In the final term students start component 1, their non-exam assessment (NEA) setting themselves a brief to support a personal investigation into an area of interest. Although students use prior knowledge from the guided project to support their work, staff through 1:1 tutorial introduce subject specific skills to develop and expand the project to maximise all assessment objective and marks</p>
	Key Stage 5: Year 13	<p>In the first term students continue with their personal investigation and begin the written content of the component, researching, exploring and experimenting in response to their chosen theme.</p> <p>At the beginning of February students start component 2, their externally set assessment (ESA) In Component 2, students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.</p>

Impact

Studying Fine Art will give students the opportunity to reflect on their own ambitions, agendas, experiences and biases. Studying Art can mean different things to different people and students are able to interpret the course to explore new skills and gain new contextual knowledge.

Open-mindedness, critical thinking and authenticity - skills that studying art can certainly develop - are important at this point of decision making during the course which leads students into taking their Personal Investigation in the direction of their choice, developing and evolving as an artist.