

Art, Craft & Design

Examination Board: OCR

Staff Lead

O Hurd-Thomas, BA (Hons), MA, PGCE

Why Study Art, Craft and Design?

Students will build on current skills to demonstrate a broad range of visual recording skills, including a variety of drawing styles. You will develop a capacity for the critical analysis of images, and the subject specific language to convey your ideas and insights. The ability to explore a range of materials and processes whilst developing your ideas is important. This naturally leads to the final realisation of your intentions into a coherent body of art work. An ability to manage time and workload is essential for this course.

As the course progresses the potential for specialisation in a particular area of art practice such as fine art, graphic communication, photography, textile design, or three dimensional design is a possibility. Alternatively, you could follow a broader learning pathway, mixing processes, techniques and ways of working from a range of art, craft and design disciplines.

Career Paths & Degree Courses

The Art, Craft & Design course at Plymstock is an excellent stepping stone to further study at both Foundation and Degree level. Thereafter careers in the creative industries, either in the Fine Arts (painting, sculpture etc.) or applied areas such as graphic design, advertising, architecture,

fashion and film are all possibilities. An Art, Craft & Design A level is also an asset for anybody considering a supporting role in such industries, for example in the financial, marketing and administrative parts of the cultural sector. Given the increasing emphasis on creative thinking as a core skill in the world's most successful companies, an Art A level is an excellent counterpoint to a more academic set of A levels, and is widely considered to be valuable by employers.

Course Costs

All Year 12 and Year 13 students are asked to pay a studio fee of £30 at the start of September. Every year we try to organise a trip to visit galleries either in the city centre or further afield, in locations such as London or St Ives. If finance is an issue we will always try and find ways to support students so that they can attend.

Requirements

At least five 9-4 grades at GCSE, with a minimum average grade score of 4.5. Grade 6 or above in GCSE Art. In exceptional circumstances students who have not achieved a 6 may be admitted at the discretion of the Head of Department. Similarly, if Art is not studied at GCSE students must meet with the Head of Department and show evidence of art skills.

Year 12	Year13
<p>Practical Portfolio; A broad skills-building introduction to a variety of art processes, initially following themes set within the department. All work is thoroughly grounded in the research and appreciation of art practices both traditional and contemporary. Leading to a presentation of research and development and final piece(s) as a final portfolio. Work from the Year 12 practical portfolio may also form part of the student's Year 13 Personal Investigation.</p>	<p>Personal Investigation; A development of the work done in Y12, but with an emphasis on depth of engagement with artists and processes, that leads to one major project. The direction of study is increasingly student led, and once again leads to a mature presentation of ideas and research, together with a final portfolio of art work. Includes a related written element of a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose. The Personal Investigation accounts for 60% of the marks on the A Level course.</p>
<p>Year 12 Summer Exam; Students respond to a starting point set internally by the Art, Craft and Design department. A period of supported development work during the Spring of Year 12 leads to a 10 hour controlled test in which an outcome is to be produced. Work from the Year 12 practical portfolio and summer exam may also form part of the student's Year 13 Personal Investigation.</p>	<p>Controlled Assignment; Soon after Christmas in Year 13 the students respond to one of a range of starting points set by the exam board. A period of supported development work leads to a 15 hour controlled test in which an outcome is to be produced. The Controlled Assignment accounts for 40% of the marks on the A Level course.</p>