

G.C.S.E Fine Art, Photography and Textiles Course Information

As Art is a practical subject, there are no traditional written exams to revise for, however please see below the information of how you can continue to support your child in GCSE Art and Design.

Course Outline

GCSE Art & Design is taught through three pathways which are Fine Art, Photography and Textiles. Your child will have chosen one of the three pathways.

The course is divided into two units spread over Year 10 and Year 11.

Year 10 and Year 11

Unit 1 is a portfolio of work consisting of one project and another small project. Unit 1 is worth **60%** of the overall GCSE grade and begins in Year 10 and continues into Year 11. Unit 1 is themed set, plus marked and moderated by the art department, then moderated by the AQA examiner. The pupil's portfolio is selected from work undertaken during lessons plus homework's and must include more than one project. All sketchbook prep work is assessed with a high grading weight of the **60%** alongside with the final outcomes.

Year 11

Unit 2 is an externally set paper also known as the "exam". This unit is worth **40%** of the overall GCSE grade and begins in January 2026. On the set paper there are themed questions for pupils to choose from as starting points. Unit 2 is marked plus moderated by the art department and then moderated by a AQA examiner. There is normally an 8-week window to complete the sketch book prep work which is assessed with a high weighting of the 40% as well as the final outcome. No more prep work can be completed once the exam date starts. The exam is 10 hours of sustained focused study under controlled conditions over two days. Pupils respond to their chosen starting point creating a final outcome.

Grading and Results

Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 are combined to create the overall mark the pupil will receive. Grading is awarded Level U - 9. Pupils will be graded on four assessment objectives for their Unit 1 portfolio and Unit 2 exam. After the art department has moderated a provisional mark is given from Art teachers but grade boundaries can change after AQA GCSE examiners have completed their moderation visit. The overall grade will be available on results day in **August 2026**.

Course Expectations and Support

All GCSE Art & Design pathways are delivered through the AQA specification. We believe this specification provides pupils with a wide range of creative and stimulating opportunities and enables teachers to devise courses of study that genuinely reflects our values and enthusiasms whilst allowing pupils an element of creative control over their own work.

All GCSE tasks in both units must be completed to best of pupil's abilities to gain the marks. Mounted up sketchbooks are vital to show the artwork in an effective and coherent way. Homework is set by teachers to enhance and to gain more marks so need to be taken seriously and completed.

It is advised to all pupils to take advantage of attending art catch up sessions that are on every Tuesday after school in the art department. This is a good opportunity for pupils to complete or catch up on unfinished work and have access to the practical art rooms, materials and specialist equipment. Teachers will also be available for support and help. Photography equipment can be borrowed when arranged with Mr Wilkinson.

Important Dates

Year 10

Fine Art/Textiles

Landscape Project Deadline **Friday 23rd May 2026.**

Year 11

Fine Art

Unit 1 Autobiography/Gargoyles and Landscape project Deadline **Friday 19th December 2025.**

Photography

Unit 1 Portfolio Deadline **Monday 5th January 2026.**

Fine Art/Photography

Unit 2 Exam papers and prep begin **January 2026.**

There is also a planned Art Immersion date on **Tuesday 24th March 2026** which means all students will be off timetable in the art room to complete any assessed prep work for Unit 2 to support them to be ready for the upcoming deadline of the first exam day beginning **Thursday 26th March 2026.**

Art exam dates **Thursday 26th and Friday 27th March 2026.**

Teacher Contact

If you have any questions about the course or your child's progress, please contact the following:

Y10 Fine Art/Textiles amansbridge@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

Y11 Fine Art jbrown@noadswood.hants.sch.uk

Y10/Y11 Photography swilkinson@noadswood.hants.sch.uk