ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – KEY STAGE 3

OUR CURRICULUM INTENT

At The Forest Academy, our Art curriculum is designed to develop creative, curious and independent young artists who understand the power of visual communication and their role within an increasingly diverse and complex world. We aim to provide students with a broad and ambitious artistic education that encourages them to explore ideas, cultures, identities and social issues through a range of artistic disciplines, materials and processes.

Our curriculum is carefully sequenced to build and deepen students' knowledge, understanding and practical skills over time. Through the study of Still Life in Year 7, Alternative Landscapes in Year 8, and Art and Protest in Year 9, students engage with a diverse range of artists, movements and cultural contexts. They develop secure subject knowledge and specialist vocabulary while gaining an understanding of key artistic concepts including observation, symbolism, composition, experimentation, personal expression and visual analysis.

Projects across Key Stage 3 are structured in the style of GCSE sustained investigations, providing students with a clear pathway towards further study in Art and Design. Students learn to research and analyse the work of artists, designers and craftspeople, create meaningful visual responses, experiment with a wide range of media and techniques, and refine their ideas through an iterative creative process. As they progress through each project, students develop increasing independence in generating, recording and presenting their ideas before producing personal outcomes that communicate their intentions effectively.

We intend for students to become confident, reflective and resilient creative practitioners who can investigate visual sources, think critically, solve problems and make informed artistic decisions. Through engagement with historical, contemporary and culturally diverse artworks, students learn to appreciate different perspectives and understand the ways in which art reflects and influences society. By developing creativity, technical proficiency and visual literacy, students are equipped for success at GCSE, prepared for future creative pathways, and empowered to participate meaningfully in the cultural world around them.

CURRICULUM JOURNEY

Year 7 introduces students to sustained art projects through the study of Still Life and Vanitas, Pop Art and Automatism, developing observational drawing, artist research, experimentation with materials and the communication of ideas through visual outcomes.

Year 8 deepens creative independence through Alternative Landscapes, where students explore diverse artistic interpretations of place, refine technical skills across a range of media, and develop increasingly personal and informed responses to sources.

Year 9 applies and extends prior learning through Art and Protest, encouraging students to investigate social, political and cultural issues, critically analyse artists' intentions, and create purposeful artworks that express personal viewpoints.

Across Key Stage 3, students work through projects structured in the style of GCSE sustained investigations, developing skills in research, analysis, experimentation, refinement and final outcome production. GCSE Fine Art in Years 10-11 builds upon this foundation through increasingly independent investigations, deeper critical understanding and the rigorous application of the AQA Assessment Objectives (AO1-AO4) to produce sophisticated personal responses.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – KEY STAGE 3

YEAR 7–8

YEAR	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
YEAR 7	**Introduction to Still life** **Key concepts and areas of focus** - Tone - Mark Making - Light and shadow	**Still life drawing** **Key concepts and areas of focus** - Observational drawing - Symbolism - Composition - Vanitas - Messaging	**Still life and surrealism** **Key concepts and areas of focus** - Surrealism - Symbolism - Distortion - Automation - Joan Miro - Andre Masson	**Surreal Still Life Experimentation** **Key concepts and areas of focus** - Experimentation - Composition - Analysis -	**Surreal still life and personal development of ideas and processes** **Key concepts and areas of focus** -Experimentation -Development -Testing -Reflection and analysis **-**Pop art -Warhol and Lichtenstein	**Surreal stile life and personal outcomes** **Key concepts and areas of focus** - Realisations - Outcomes - Response - Concepts - Analysis - Selection - Curation
YEAR 8	**Introduction to Alternative Landscapes** **Key concepts and areas of focus** -Composition -Foreground, middle ground, background	**Alternative landscape: traditional drawing and tone** **Key concepts and areas of focus** **-**Composition -Drawing skills -Mark making and natural textures -Ansel Adams -Traditional landscapes -Tone, light and shadow	**Alternative landscape: Alternative landscape traditions** **Key concepts and areas of focus** **-**Shan Shui -Ink wash -Scale and depth -Negative space **-Colour theory**	**Alternative landscape: Alternative landscape traditions** **Key concepts and areas of focus** -Colour theory -Van Gogh -Expressionism -Colour, mood and meaning -Gaugin -Monet	**Alternative Landscapes and personal development of ideas and processes** **Key concepts and areas of focus** -Experimentation -Development -Testing -Reflection and analysis **-**Pop art -Warhol and Lichtenstein	**Alternative landscape and personal outcomes** **Key concepts and areas of focus** - Realisations - Outcomes - Response - Concepts - Analysis - Selection - Curation

YEAR 9

Introduction to Art Protest	Art Protest source exploration	Art protest and poster art	Art protest and public arts communication	Art Protest and personal development of ideas and processes	Art protest and personal outcomes
Key concepts and areas of focus - Visual communication - Elizabeth Catlett - Drawing techniques revisited - Mark Making revisited - Tone revisited - Civil rights	**Key concepts and areas of focus** - Printmaking - Shepard Fairey - Surveillance - Typography	**Key concepts and areas of focus** - Collage - Mixed media - Typography and communication - Protest posters - Colour theory	**Key concepts and areas of focus** - Banksy - Poverty - Communication - Subversion - Compare and contrast	**Key concepts and areas of focus** -Experimentation -Development -Testing -Reflection and analysis -Mixed media -Posters and communication	**Key concepts and areas of focus** - Realisations - Outcomes - Response - Concepts - Analysis - Selection - Curation - Exhibition

FINE ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW – KEY STAGE 4

KS4 Component1 : Students develop skills focused on assessment objectives in preparation for their sustained project. Sustained projects enable independent and personal development of a body of work utilising and developing skills and knowledge as work progresses.

KS4 Component 2: Independent externally set assignment. Students consolidate and apply knowledge and skills in independent and personal enquiry into topics.

focused	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
YEAR 10	Component 1: Sustained project skills building -Introduction to course content -Practical skills building -Photography -Drawing accuracy	Component 1: Sustained project skills building -Drawing -Print media -Visual analysis	Component 1: Sustained project -Introduction to sustained project -Ideas development -Artist's research	Component 1: Sustained project -Artist research -Artist analysis -Artist response	Component 1: Sustained project -Media experimentation -Visual recording -Concept development	Component 1: Sustained project -Technical and media development
YEAR 11	Component 1: Sustained project -Ideas development -Media testing -Review of project	Component 1: Sustained project Realisation and submission 60% of course grade -Final experimentation -Final outcome planning -Production of final outcome -Mock exam 10 hours	Component 2: Externally set assessment introduction. 40% of course grade -Exploration of chosen topic -Exploration and response to sources.	Component 2: Externally set assessment introduction. 40% of course grade -Review of research -Conceptual development -Material and technical experimentation	Component 2: Externally set assessment introduction. 40% of course grade -Planning of final outcomes -Testing of techniques and outcome plans -Final 10 hour examination	**N/A**

GCSE QUALIFICATION | AQA ART AND DESIGN FINE ART (8202), PHOTOGRAPHY (8206)

COMPONENT 1 • COURSEWORK

JAN - DEC | 60% | 96 MARKS

COMPONENT 2 • EXTERNALLY SET ASSIGNMENT

JAN -MAY | 10 HOUR EXAM | 40% | 96 marks

CREATIVE ENQUIRY AND ASSESSMENT

Across the curriculum, students engage in a sustained process of artistic enquiry, using primary and secondary sources, artist research, annotation, visual analysis and practical investigation to explore and communicate ideas. Students critically examine the work of artists, craftspeople and designers, making informed connections between artistic intentions, contexts, materials and outcomes. Through drawing, photography, written reflection and experimentation with a range of media, they develop and refine ideas, respond to sources and make purposeful creative decisions.

Projects are structured to reflect the creative processes and assessment requirements of the AQA GCSE Art and Design specification, introducing students to the knowledge, skills and habits required for successful artistic practice. Students progress through a cycle of research, investigation, experimentation, refinement and outcome development that aligns with the four assessment objectives: developing ideas through contextual research (AO1), refining work through experimentation (AO2), recording observations and insights (AO3), and presenting personal responses (AO4).

Regular assessment evaluates students' subject knowledge, technical skill, creative thinking and ability to analyse, develop and communicate ideas. Students receive opportunities to reflect on and improve their work throughout each project, developing independence, resilience and confidence as creative practitioners.

OFFICIAL GCSE SPECIFICATION LINK

AQA GCSE ART AND DESIGN FINE ART

AQA GCSE ART AND DESIGN PHOTOGRAPHY