SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON ACADEMY

ART & DT KS5 CURRICULUM MAP

Year 13

GRAPHICS

Year 13 focuses on professional graphic communication practice, with students completing their Personal Investigation before Christmas before moving on to the Externally Set Assignment, worth 40% of the A Level. Following the release of the examination brief in February, students interpret the theme through a creative design process, developing ideas for a chosen audience, purpose or client. They explore areas such as branding, typography, advertising, editorial design, packaging and illustration, selecting appropriate techniques to communicate their ideas effectively. The course culminates in a 15-hour practical examination, where students produce a final outcome that demonstrates creativity, technical confidence and effective visual communication.

FINE ART

- In Year 13, students complete their Personal Investigation by December before beginning Component 2: Externally Set Assignment, worth the remaining 40% of the A Level. In February, students receive an examination theme from the exam board and develop an individual response through research, experimentation and sustained practical investigation. Students refine and realise their ideas through a personal body of fine art work, culminating in the 15-hour practical examination in May. Throughout the year, students are expected to demonstrate increasing independence, critical thinking and technical proficiency while producing ambitious, thoughtful and highly personal outcomes that fulfil the four Assessment Objectives.

PRODUCT DESIGN

- Students carry their finalised design proposal from Year 12 through to a complete Independent Design and Make Project (Component 2, NEA), manufacturing a prototype and compiling a portfolio covering investigation, specification, ideation, development, manufacture and evaluation worth 50% of the final grade. Alongside coursework, students complete the remaining Component 1 theory content (systems, mechanisms, materials, manufacturing and emerging technologies) and undertake focused exam preparation, culminating in the 50% weighted written examination. The year balances sustained independent practical work with regular theory teaching and exam-technique practice, ensuring both halves of the qualification are secure ahead of final assessment.

EXAM PREP

EXAMS

Further Study

Studying A Level Fine Art, Graphic Communication and Product Design provides students with a strong foundation for further education through university degrees, apprenticeships and specialist courses in areas such as fine art, graphic design, illustration, architecture, product design, engineering, creative industries and manufacturing.

Career Paths

These subjects support progression into a wide range of creative and technical careers including artist, graphic designer, illustrator, product designer, architect, engineer, animator, creative director, maker, and roles within the wider design and innovation industries.

Skills

Students develop a broad range of transferable skills including creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, visual communication, research, experimentation, digital design, practical making, project management, independence and resilience. These skills are highly valued by employers and further education providers across creative and technical sectors.

Interest

A continued passion for exploring creativity, visual communication, materials, technology and the design process, alongside a desire to develop original ideas, challenge conventions and create meaningful outcomes that respond to the world around us.

Year 12

FINE ART

- Students explore a wide range of fine art disciplines, including drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, sculpture and photography where appropriate, experimenting with materials, processes and techniques to communicate personal ideas. Alongside their practical portfolio, students complete a written investigation of up to 3,000 words, analysing the work of artists and exploring themes that inform and support their own practice. All work is assessed against the four Assessment Objectives (AOs).
- In Year 12, A Level Fine Art encourages students to develop their creativity, observational skills and personal artistic identity through the start of Component 1: Personal Investigation, which accounts for 60% of the A Level.
- A level is focused on students developing their own independent creativity under a project title. Students can choose from a range of media and materials. Students will develop their creativity under the project titles of natural forms and identity, whilst improving their skills in the 4 assessment areas (AQA

GRAPHICS

- In May of Year 12, students begin their Personal investigation which is 60% of their A level. This includes a practical project supported by a written piece.

PRODUCT DESIGN

- Students build core technical knowledge across materials, manufacturing processes, systems and sustainability, while developing the independent creative and research skills that underpin the NEA. Scaffolded design and make projects in the first half of the year rehearses the full design process, research, specification, ideation, modeling, making and evaluation, using media and materials of the student's own choosing. From Spring onward, students identify a personal context and begin their own Independent Design and Make Project (Component 2), while theory content (Component 1) is interweaved throughout to build toward the Year 13 written exam.