

Art & Design

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Hello A level artists!

I am going to ask you to complete a number of tasks to prepare yourselves for the A level course in September.

Over the first 12 weeks of the 'A' level art and design course you will complete a 'foundation' style skills-based series of mini projects. These will include working on drawing, painting, printing, sculpture and attending life classes. We will be using the theme 'Vanitas'. The idea behind this is that the theme is so broad you can work on a personal project with your own focus, and we will develop the Vanitas theme by looking into modern day issues such as the cost-of-living crisis, conflict or gender identity.

At the start of the course, we will focus on observational studies from primary sources, exploring a wide range of media and techniques. It should not be daunting as this is how you began the GCSE course in year 10 and will instantly show you how much your skills have developed over the last two years. To prepare for this and to try to ensure that you are not too rusty at the start of your practical experimentation we would like you to complete the following tasks:

- Create a series of 3 drawings of items from primary source. Do not work from photos, but from real life. Create one in pencil, one in coloured pencil and one in biro. Each should be at least A4 in scale and you must focus on tone to give your work form. I want you to keep those observational skills fresh.
- Choose your own items and make an accurate drawing of this object from life in a medium of your own choice. Think about an object that interests you. Again, I want to see accuracy and tone.
- Create a photo shoot of at least 12 images based around this object. Think about texture, colour, shade and composition. Research how photographers have looked at similar objects to help you think about the viewpoint you are taking the images from. Think about the lighting of the object to help you with texture and form etc.
- Look around at several galleries. Ideally in real life but with the current situation there are loads of international galleries that offer good virtual tours. Choose galleries that you think look interesting or are in places you have always wanted to visit. Here is a [link to all the galleries that have virtual tours](#) in the world. Have a look for artwork that you like. Make a quick sketch of the work and then complete some brief research into the work. But I am more interested in what you think about the work. Make notes. In September, I will ask you all to explain very briefly to the class about the artwork you have chosen. I want you to be excited by the work. It's your choice what inspires you!
- Create a mind map that starts to explore your initial ideas about the theme. Collect images, perhaps make more sketches, look at artists, perhaps there is an issue you want to explore. Be creative, inventive and as ambitious as you like.

Good luck for September!