



Art & Photography

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

At Key Stage 4, students can choose GCSE Fine Art, Graphic Communication or Photography.

Fine Art

Qualification AQA GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art (8201) in Years 10 and 11.

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Unit 1 – Foundation course	Key Skills	Natural forms title page; acrylic painting techniques; charcoal, graded pencil and graphite.	Autumn 1
	Printmaking	Lino printing, etching and mono-printing.	Autumn 1
	Textiles	Drawing with stitch, heat transfer, trapping and batik.	Autumn 2
	Sculpture	Wire and tissue-paper sculpture; improving foundation course work.	Autumn 2
Unit 2 – Sustained project	Sustained project – Beginning	Launching the sustained project: mind maps, mood boards, artist analysis, recording, refining and experimenting (AO1–AO3).	Spring 1
	Sustained project – workshops and development	Workshops in new techniques and individual experimentation.	Spring 2
	Improvement	Reflecting on and improving work.	Spring 2
Unit 3 – Sustained project continued	Sustained project	Reflection and assessment.	Summer 1
	Developing project towards PPE	Developing ideas from four artists or sources, working towards a mid-project final piece and mock exam, then planning the second half of the project.	Summer 1 / Summer 2
Year 11			
Unit 1 – Sustained project continued	Gaps in knowledge, new skills	Learning up to three new skills to develop ideas more fully.	Autumn 1
	Continuation of sustained project	Revisiting all four assessment objectives, with a focus on recording and refinement.	Autumn 1
	PPE – Year 11	Preparing for and completing a five-hour mock exam final piece.	Autumn 1
	Completing portfolio	Acting on feedback, completing and mounting the portfolio before the coursework deadline (60% of the course).	Autumn 1
Unit 2 – Exam project	Exam project – set by AQA	Responding to the AQA exam paper: mood boards, mind maps and artist research, developing and refining ideas, annotation and planning a final piece.	Spring 1
Unit 3	Exam project – set by AQA	Planning and preparing for the 10-hour exam; sitting the Art, Photography and Graphics exams.	Summer 1

Graphic Communication

Qualification AQA GCSE Art and Design: Graphic Communication.

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Unit 1 – Foundation Project	Saul Bass	Introduction to graphic design through the work of Saul Bass.	Autumn 1
	Branding	Designing a brand: monograms, mood board, logo design, refinement and mock-ups.	Autumn 1
	Background of Branding	Extending the brand into backgrounds, a website, merchandise and an app.	Autumn 2
Unit 2 – Sustained project	Marker pens	Technical skills with marker pens.	Spring 1
	Sustained project – Beginning – Zine	Creating a zine on a chosen theme: mind maps and mood boards, designer-inspired work, an article, mixed media, photography and lino printing, through to front and back covers and the finished zine.	Spring 1 / Spring 2
	Improvement	Reflecting on and improving work.	Spring 2
Unit 3 – Sustained project continued	Sustained project	Reflection and assessment.	Summer 1
	Developing project towards PPE	Developing ideas from four designers or sources and refining written work.	Summer 1
	PPE	Working towards a mid-project final piece and mock exam, then planning the second half of the project.	Summer 2
Year 11			
Unit 1 – Sustained project continued	Gaps in knowledge, new skills	Learning up to three new skills to develop ideas more fully.	Autumn 1
	Continuation of sustained project	Revisiting all four assessment objectives, with a focus on recording and refinement.	Autumn 1
	PPE – Year 11	Preparing for and completing a five-hour mock exam final piece.	Autumn 1
	Completing portfolio	Acting on feedback, completing and mounting the portfolio before the coursework deadline (60% of the course).	Autumn 1
Unit 2	Exam project – set by AQA	Responding to the AQA exam paper: mood boards, mind maps and designer research, developing and refining ideas, annotation and planning a final piece.	Spring 1
Unit 3	Exam project – set by AQA	Planning and preparing for the 10-hour exam; sitting the Graphics exam.	Summer 1

Photography

Qualification AQA GCSE Art and Design: Photography (8206).

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
Year 10			
Unit 1 – Foundation Project	Viewpoints	Viewpoints inspired by Rodchenko: using the camera, contact sheets, analysis, Photoshop basics, selective colour and layers.	Autumn 1
	Composition	Composition (rule of thirds, space, leading lines) and David Hockney-inspired joiners.	Autumn 1

Unit	Topic	What students learn	Term
	Camera theory	Camera theory: depth of field, shutter speed, ISO, manual mode and light.	Autumn 2
	Identity – teacher led	Identity: light portraits (Jake Hicks, Patrick Rochon), masks (Inge Morath), collage (John Stezaker) and Wanda Wulz.	Autumn 2
	Sustained project – Beginning	Taking photographs over the holidays to launch the sustained project.	Autumn 2
Unit 2 – Sustained project	Sustained project – Beginning	Launching the sustained project: mind maps, mood boards, artist analysis, recording and editing with purpose, refining and experimenting (AO1–AO3).	Spring 1
	Sustained project – workshops and development	Layering techniques and physical experimentation, such as cyanotypes, image transfer, resin and photomontage.	Spring 2
Unit 3 – Sustained project continued	Sustained project	Reflection and assessment.	Summer 1
	Developing project towards PPE	Editing new holiday photographs, developing ideas from four photographers or sources and refining written work.	Summer 1
	PPE	Working towards a mid-project final piece and mock exam, then planning the second half of the project.	Summer 2
Year 11			
Unit 1 – Sustained project continued	Gaps in knowledge, new skills	Learning up to three new skills to develop ideas more fully.	Autumn 1
	Continuation of sustained project	Revisiting all four assessment objectives, with a focus on recording and refinement.	Autumn 1
	PPE – Year 11	Preparing for and completing a five-hour mock exam final piece.	Autumn 1
	Completing portfolio	Acting on feedback, completing and mounting the portfolio before the coursework deadline (60% of the course).	Autumn 1
Unit 2	Exam project – set by AQA	Responding to the AQA exam paper: mood boards, mind maps and photographer research, developing and refining ideas, annotation and planning a final piece.	Spring 1
Unit 3	Exam project – set by AQA	Planning the 10-hour exam and uploading photographs; sitting the Photography exam.	Summer 1