An oil painting of a woman's head and shoulders in profile, facing right. Her hair is dark and pulled back, adorned with several large, vibrant red flowers. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of her face and the texture of her skin. The background is dark and indistinct.

# THE ARTS AT RHS



ROYAL  
HOSPITAL  
SCHOOL

FINE ART  
ART AND TEXTILES  
ART AND PHOTOGRAPHY

## WHY CHOOSE ART AND DESIGN?

The creative industries are the fastest growing economic sector in the UK, responsible for 5.6% of jobs. It is for this reason, but also because of the unique skill set that is developed through study of the arts, that UK universities and employers are increasingly looking for pupils who have chosen to study a creative subject at A Level. Steve Jobs famously attributed Apple's success to the fact that he 'hires artists and musicians fascinated by technology' rather than individuals who studied technology itself, due to the creative mindset that these people brought to his company.

As well as developing your artistic skills, studying art at A Level helps to build your 'all-round' attributes and this is being increasingly recognised. Exam board OCR have identified the top 5 qualities of pupils studying the arts compared to those that don't...



1. The arts make self-starters and develop individuals with emotional intelligence
2. The arts are stretching - and require pupils to set high levels of personal challenge
3. Arts students are highly sought-after by employers and universities
4. Arts develop the broader dimensions of the human being - mind, body and soul.
5. Arts, drama or music can be the place where pupils are allowed to blossom and shine



**ARTS IN SCHOOL ARE A CRUCIAL INGREDIENT IN THE MAKING OF UK'S CREATIVE LIFE - ONE OF OUR NATION'S USPs.**

*- Paul Steer, Head of Policy at OCR.*

# WHICH ART COURSE SHOULD I CHOOSE?

In the Sixth Form you have the option to study one of three endorsements within the Art and Design specification.

## FINE ART

This endorsement is the 'pure art' option, allowing you to work in whatever medium you choose - painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, textile, digital and mixed media. You can combine different approaches as you build your portfolio or you can choose to specialise. Fine art is an excellent choice if you have a range of artistic interests and you wish to explore different approaches in your work. You are strongly advised to have studied art to at least GCSE level if you wish to take up this course. If you have not studied art before then you may still be able to choose this option. By presenting and discussing some of your art work with Mrs Barber we will be able to determine if this is the right course for you.



## TEXTILES

This endorsement allows you to specialise in textile design and fashion. In many areas the course will cross over with the fine art course, encompassing drawing and exploring creatively in a very similar way. However, specialist textile techniques and approaches will be taught and will allow you to refine your skills in designing and making. One of the strengths of the course is its fashion focus, including pattern cutting and draping. Many of our pupils have gone on to study Fashion at leading universities straight from RHS.



In much the same way as the fine art course, it is highly recommended that you have studied art to at least GCSE level in order to take up this course, and some knowledge of textiles would be an advantage. Once again however, you may still be able to take up this option if you have not studied art before. By presenting and discussing some of your art work with Mrs Barber and Mrs Hitchen we will be able to determine if this is the right course for you.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

This endorsement allows you to study art entirely through photography and is an excellent option for those who wish to continue a creative option without having studied the arts before. The photography course teaches photographic and development techniques both in and out of the darkroom - using 35mm film cameras as well as DSLRs to ensure you have a wide range of skills and techniques to draw from as you develop your portfolio. You will study photographers past and present to inspire your work and begin to develop your own approach and style over the first year of the course.



## HOW DOES THE COURSE WORK?

Whichever endorsement you choose you will be following the AQA A Level course. At the start of the course you will be individually assigned to a teacher who will support you in your work throughout the course.

### YEAR 12 : COURSEWORK PREPARATION AND DEVELOPMENT

During your first year you will spend time refining your skills and developing the quality of your practical work. You will work through a broad project that is designed to develop your ability to think and work at a higher level. You will be introduced to the concept of developing a personal line of enquiry through questioning and exploring.

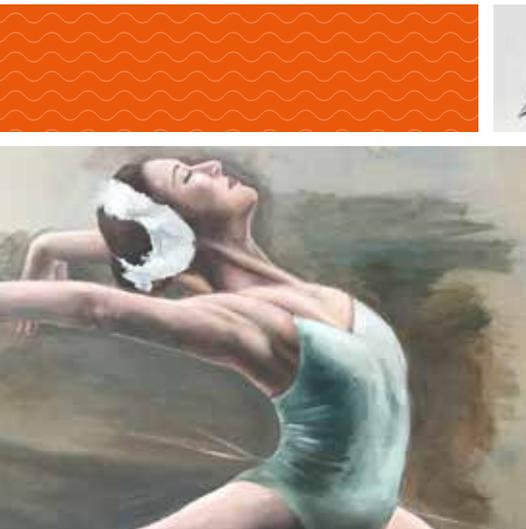
Around Easter you will begin to develop your Personal Investigation (PI). This coursework unit makes up 60% of your final grade and is a body of practical work that explores a line of artistic enquiry that you have set for yourself. As well as a portfolio of practical work the PI includes a written element of up to 3500 words.

### YEAR 13: PERSONAL INVESTIGATION AND EXTERNALLY SET ASSIGNMENT

The first term in Year 13 is dedicated to the development of your Personal Investigation. You will complete this by Christmas. In the Lent Term you will receive an examination paper from which you must create a portfolio of preparatory studies, leading to a final practical outcome. This unit is worth 40% of your grade. Portfolio work takes place in normal lessons and can be developed with the support of your teacher. Once you have completed your explorations you will develop a final outcome under controlled conditions over three days.

## COURSE OVERVIEW:

| UNIT | TITLE                     | CONTENT  | TIMEFRAME                     | %                  |
|------|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|
|      | Preparatory Studies       | Exploration and skills tuition   | September Yr 12 - March Yr 12 |                    |
| 1    | Personal Investigation    | Portfolio of work<br>Written element<br>(up to 3500 words)               | March Yr 12 - December Yr 13  | 60%<br>of<br>grade |
| 2    | Externally set assignment | Portfolio of work<br>and final outcome<br>15 hour non-exam<br>assessment | January Yr 13 - March Yr 13   | 40%<br>of<br>grade |



**FASHION** GRAPHIC DESIGN **GALLERY OWNER**  
 AUTOMOTIVE DESIGN ADVERTISING  
**PERSONAL STYLIST** UPHOLSTERY  
**TOWN PLANNING** **TEACHER**  
 TYPOGRAPHY ART DEALER  
 MAKE-UP ARTIST WEB DESIGN  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** **FLORIST** **JOURNALISM**  
**FINE ART** **CARTOONIST** ANIMATION  
**TAILOR** **ILLUSTRATION** COSTUME DESIGN  
**CINEMATOGRAPHER** **APP DESIGN**  
 ICE SCULPTOR JEWELLERY DESIGN  
 SET DESIGN EXHIBITION DESIGN  
 BLACKSMITH **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT**  
**ARCHITECTURE** **TATTOO ARTIST**  
 VIDEO GAMES DESIGN  
**COURTROOM SKETCH ARTIST**

If you would like to discuss the A Level specification and the options that the Art Department offer, please don't hesitate to contact

Mrs Harriet Barber, Head of Art

e [hbarber@royalhospitalschool.org](mailto:hbarber@royalhospitalschool.org)