

Art and Design - National 5



Why take this course?

You should enjoy the subject and want to build on your existing skills across expressive and design areas. You may want to begin a period of study in this subject which may eventually lead to Higher level and progression towards art school or college applications. You may want your subject choices to include a creative and practical subject as a contrast to others you have picked. Ultimately though, it's an opportunity to be creative, improve your artistic skills and to have fun whilst doing so.

To succeed in this course, you need...

to be motivated and have an open and hardworking attitude and approach. Most students complete the S3 BGE course before

choosing National 5 but this is not always essential, come and have a chat with an art teacher if you didn't take art in S3 to see if it would be a good choice for you.

Course structure and Content (subject to change by the SQA)

The course consists of two portfolios (collections of your coursework) – Expressive, and Design, plus an external written exam.

Expressive Portfolio

You will complete observational drawing investigations in a chosen theme area such as landscape, portraiture or still life. Then, develop composition, colour, style etc leading to a final piece. You will also learn about the work of other artists.

Design Portfolio

You will develop design work in response to a design brief. You will investigate your theme and develop your designs, problem solving to resolve design issues to produce a final piece. You will also learn about the work of other designers.

Course Assessment

The expressive and design portfolios are marked externally by SQA. The external written paper covers questions relating to the work of artists / designers and is worth 20% of your overall mark.

Where might this course take me?

This course may lead to further progression towards Higher Art and Design and / or Higher Photography.



Art can be great preparation for any career that requires creative thinking, fine motor skills, presentation skills, and an eye for aesthetics. Take a look at the list of art related careers on the board in the entrance to the art department to see whether your career path requires an art qualification.

