

St Margaret's High School

Advanced Higher Newsletter



Art & Design

National 7/Advanced Higher Art & Design Course in S6

Activity

Unit outcomes:

Action Plan written and relevant Artists/Designers identified

Mid September 2017

Sketchbook Project:

End of September 2017

(Unit 1 outcomes. Marked Internally on Pass/Fail basis)

Portfolio: Body of work submitted to SQA

Development work and Final Piece of Expressive Artwork or Design Solution 1

December 2017

Development work and Final Piece of Expressive Artwork or Design Solution 2

March 2018

Development work and Final Piece of Expressive Artwork or Design Solution 3

May 2018

Mounting of Work, Annotation, Submission of Evaluation (300 words max)

May 2018

Critical Analysis Essay (1,700 words max)

Folio Submitted to SQA

June 2018

The New Advanced Higher

The new Advanced Highers in Art and Design are broad based courses, open to a range of learners with prior knowledge and experience of the subject. They can provide great scope for creative learning and teaching approaches to meet the needs of every learner.

The new qualifications encourage a more independent approach to learning and to support this, learners are encouraged to develop their creative and problem solving skills throughout the course.

As they gather and begin to use research material, learners should be encouraged to focus on experimentation with an increasing range of media and techniques, establishing a developmental body of work. This should lead to greater independence and confidence, resulting in an increase in the pace and depth of their work as they apply new ideas.

Course Structure

Each course will have **two mandatory units** and a **course assessment** which takes the form of a **portfolio to be submitted to the SQA**.

For candidates sitting Art and Design (Expressive) there are two units:

- **Expressive Studies** + **Expressive Enquiry** + **Course Assessment**
(Portfolio)

For candidates sitting Art and Design (Design) there are two units

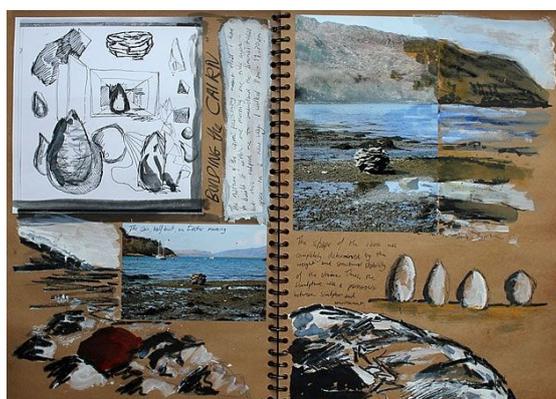
- **Design Studies** + **Design Enquiry** + **Course Assessment**
(Portfolio)

Candidates will also submit a written Critical Analysis of 1,700 word maximum.

Unit Work

The two unit structure in each Advanced Higher course is new. These units are both mandatory. At the start of the year, students will undertake a sketchbook project as part of their unit work. As part of this, pupils will explain why they have chosen to study a particular area of art. They will then identify a minimum of two artists or designers whose work relates to the area of art they have chosen to study and analyse two pieces of art and design that is relevant to their topic.

Pupils will begin to explore their theme. This is a process which should be guided by the teacher but is undertaken independently by the student. This can be done in a number of ways. Pupils will collect relevant images and photographs related to their theme in their sketchbook and use these as the starting point for drawing. Pupils are encouraged to experiment with materials and media, using the skills they have developed over the last five years. The sketchbook should be used for the pupil to create a starting point for later development and allows for the pupil to try new ideas at an early stage in the year. Pupils will briefly evaluate progress in their sketchbook as they go and it becomes a journal of their progress in the unit.



Independent research by pupils can include: visits to galleries and exhibitions; Artist / Designer historical timelines; visiting relevant websites; watching documentaries using online blogs, Twitter feeds, mind mapping, gathering visuals, reading books and watching movies related to theme.

Students will be supported by their teacher on an ongoing basis through daily feedback and review meetings of work will be set regularly. There is, however a great deal of independent work expected from the pupils, both in class and at home over the course of the year.

The work undertaken in the sketch-book will allow pupils to complete the internally assessed Unit work and progress to their Portfolio where they will further develop ideas and create final pieces of work.

The final date for submission of Unit Work is the end of September. However, if pupils meet all criteria before then they will be able to begin portfolio work earlier than this.

Portfolio

The portfolio, which is the work submitted to SQA to be assessed, will be marked out of 100. This includes a Critical Analysis essay of 1700 words, which is worth **30 marks**.

Within the portfolio, practical work is worth **60 marks** and the evaluation of this work is worth **10 marks**.

Portfolio (continued)

The first sheet of the portfolio should include some original ideas to act as a starting point for the rest of the folio and to give context to the markers at SQA. This may include photographs taken from the sketchbooks / unit work., one or more candidate drawing studies, a title of the theme and or a copy of the design brief used.

This idea will be developed and refined within the portfolio. All portfolios must include **at least one final piece of work or design solution in addition to development work.**

A minimum of 8 sheets of up to A1 in size, or equivalent, should be presented in the portfolio. A maximum of 15 sheets, or equivalent can be used.



In the portfolio, pupils should demonstrate:

- Assured and skilful use of materials, techniques and or technology
- Creative use of problem solving skills
- Creative and effective use of visual elements
- Development leading to effective resolution of idea
- Evidence of personal applied understanding of artists'/designers' work and practice.

Final Pieces / Design Solutions

Learners should have opportunities to develop skills in a flexible learning environment, exploring the development process and production of resolutions. The final pieces can range from highly polished outcomes to a series of models and maquettes that can communicate an idea or concept. This range of outcomes may include:

- Two dimensional work such as paintings, drawings, printmaking and illustration
- Three dimensional work such as sculpture, dresses, books and models.
- Photography, film and animation
- Installation

Critical Analysis

The aim of the critical analysis is to develop the pupils' creativity, teaching them how to gain inspiration from artists' and designers' work. They should be encouraged to engage with a wide variety of artists and designers. Pupils will analyse, in depth, either a single work or a group of closely related works. The examples chosen should be relevant to the portfolio. The analysis should be in depth and be clearly focused on specific aspects of the chosen artists' work such as visual elements and media handling. Pupils will also explore the context of the work (s), focusing on aspects such as social and cultural factors that influence and affect the artists/designers and could involve the analysis of the work in popular culture, technology, politics, gender issues, world events, influence on other art works and art movements

It should contain relevant images and **must be no longer than 1,700 words in total.**

The analysis is graded on the pupil's ability to make clear evaluative points, substantiated personal opinion and judgements.



Time Allocated

Pupils are allocated **six sessions of Art and Design per week** in class supported by a member of staff.

Pupils sitting this qualification must be committed to producing work outwith allocated class time. This is due to the quantity and quality of work expected at Advanced Higher level. It is vitally important for pupils to be committed to this course.

St. Margaret's Art and Design department operates an open door policy for students wishing to use additional time to study and to complete coursework. Should pupils wish to spend additional time in the department working at lunchtime, during study sessions or after school, this can be easily arranged.

Submission and Deadline date

Although S6 pupils leave school in May, the Advanced Higher course runs until the beginning of June, where it is collected by SQA couriers to be marked.

As a result, there is an expectancy for pupils to continue with their Advanced Higher unit throughout the month of May, either on finishing final projects or mounting the portfolio itself. This is an important time for students throughout the school and it is important that pupils manage their time throughout the year effectively.

Further Education

The Advanced Higher course is an excellent stepping stone for further education as it builds a substantial portfolio for Art School and College. If students are considering Art courses as an option for leaving school, it is a good idea to alert staff to this in order to begin the application process in time as the application deadlines for these courses differ from course to course.

If you have any further questions regarding the Advanced Higher course please do not hesitate to contact the Art and Design department where we would be happy to discuss any matters arising.