

GCSE - GRAPHICS

The first seven weeks incorporate a wide variety of different skills from an understanding of how to use Photoshop, analysing graphic products to present digital work. This allows students to refresh existing knowledge gained at KS3 and to start building practical skills for their coursework.

Topics - Term 1	Duration	Skills	Beyond the Classroom
Introduction	1 week	Research/Artist Research	Research skills
Artists	2 weeks	Written Analysis/Artist recreation	Research skills
Camera	1 week	Understanding Camera	Independent learning
Photoshop	1 week	Manipulate photographs using Photoshop	Research skills
Drawing/Photoshop	1 week	Font design	Independent learning
Presentation	1 week	Final Piece – CD design	Meeting deadline

Following the EDUQAS specification it offers both breadth and depth, allowing for such skills as independent research and analysing the work of graphic designers. Historical and contemporary fields are covered, with critical evaluations of their own work and others alongside the practical application of a diverse range of digital and traditional processes. <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/ozvli0g/eduqas-gcse-art-and-design-spec-from-2016-27-01-2020.pdf>

Topics - Term 2 - Term 2 Year 11	Duration	Skills	Beyond the Classroom
Intro to 60% Coursework project	1 week	Expression of ideas	Photo shoot
Artist study A01	6 weeks	Written Analysis	Independent learning
Font development	2 weeks	Technical	Independent learning
Media experiments A02	8 weeks	Mixed media and materials	Independent learning
Photo shoots and digital manipulation	8 weeks	Technical	Independent learning
Design ideas A02	8 weeks	Creativity	Independent learning
Final outcomes	6 weeks	Independence	Realisation

The annual College competition artwork brief wraps up the final topic prior to starting the 60% coursework. Students have the opportunity to gain deeper independent research skills, meet a live brief and present to a client. These are fundamental design skills that are transferable to the world of work. Successful outcomes are selected by the Principal and artwork is used for College representation in media platforms. After this opportunity students make independent decisions about their coursework theme based on a prior range of broad experiences and begin the process of building a substantial portfolio. The 60% coursework begins in November Year 10 and completes during December Year 11. The portfolio of work is divided up into 4 sections, which match the exact examination criteria. We encourage students to experiment and to take risks using new materials and techniques. Often taking them out of their comfort zone, which can inspire mature and highly independent responses. Frequent deadlines are set, enabling students to balance the demands of other subjects and support their time management in preparation for the examination period during Year 11. Alongside building the portfolio, there is strong support by Art and Design staff for students to attend intervention sessions, alongside trips and visits by practising artists, craft people and designers. These include a trip and online workshop with a practising graphic designer.

Year 11 Term 3 onwards - Examination preparation and terminal exam 40%

Topics - Term 3 - 5	Duration	Skills	Beyond the Classroom
Exam launch	1 week	Working to a brief	Photo shoot
Photo shoots and digital manipulation	4 weeks	Media experiments	Independent learning
Artist study A01	4 weeks	Written Analysis	Independent learning
Leicester Print Workshop	1 day	T-shirt printing	
Design ideas A02	4 weeks	Creativity	Independent learning
Final outcome A04	10 hours	Independence	Realisation

During the 40% examination period from early January to mid-May, students have autonomous choice from 12 different EDUQAS themes. We find students are able to make the seamless transition based upon the freedom given during the coursework element. Once again, guidance is given, however, it is critical at this stage that students self-regulate in preparation for the 10-hour examination and produce a digital portfolio of work.