



# THE ARTS

A level courses in:

Art, Craft & Design

Drama

Film

Media

Music Technology

Music

Photography





# A level Art, Craft & Design

## WHAT IS IT?

Art is a subject that inspires, allowing those that study it to develop their own unique way of interpreting and creating works of art. Art is an incredibly personal form of self-expression, engaging the student with the world around them, differing cultures and places as well as exploring a variety of media to develop skills.

Students will be working in a creative manner to develop their own unique voice as an artist. Building on their personal passion for this subject, students will take their understanding of art to a deeper theoretical and practical level, studying both contemporary and historical art practice. Year one of the course is structured to allow students to embed a wide range of skills and knowledge in a foundation style approach. Year two facilitates students choosing their medium of strength and embedding a more investigative approach to art practice in a self-selected specialist area.

## THE FACTS

**Coursework:** (A Portfolio of work that covers a range of media) contributes towards 60%

**Exam:** (A response to a set assignment) contributes towards 40%

Students who study Art go on to be Artists, Architects, Designers, Fashion Designers, Set Designers, Inventors and Interior Designers. They become involved in theatre, film making and television, with sets/props/costumes design. They become Writers, Journalists, Reviewers, Illustrators, Teachers, Curators and more. They become a part of a multibillion pound creative industry both UK wide and abroad.

## WHY STUDY IT?

There are wider opportunities to develop as an artist such as experiencing previously unseen artworks at a variety of galleries, residential trips to London, as well as exploring opportunities to make artworks in new format. You may take up the opportunities to showcase your work at whole school events, such as end of year shows and pop up exhibitions.

Art encourages students to develop a range of transferable skills that are valuable for any university course; being able to plan effectively, problem solve, have a creative vision, manage time and resources; being able to articulate and justify decisions, having the skill to use research and experience to inform decision making, communication skills – both verbally and visually as well as being able to frame clear personal viewpoints.





# A level Drama

## WHAT IS IT?

Drama and Theatre studies allows you to explore and develop in a number of ways, not only as an actor and performer, but also as a theatre critic and academic as you analyse play texts and study a range of different practitioners and influential theatre companies.

Students will work creatively, devising original theatre and performing new interpretations of scripted plays. Students will consider all aspects of theatre and engage with set, costume, lighting and sound design. Working in collaboration as an ensemble group is the ethos of the department.

## THE FACTS

**Coursework:** (Students create a devised piece and perform an extract with supporting documents) make up 60%.

**Exam:** (Three questions based on three different play texts) make up the remaining 40%.

Students who have followed the Drama and Theatre Studies course go on to study acting, journalism, film and television production, set/costume/props/make up/visual effects design, working within the gaming industry, advertising and marketing, event promotion, directing, producing, camera operators, lighting/sound technicians, magazine columnists/editors, event organisers, short/feature film makers, teachers, stage management, programme coordinators.

## WHY STUDY IT?

Drama and Theatre Studies is a subject that develops a range of transferable skills. Students will learn to manage time effectively, work under pressure and meet deadlines. They will have to be creative, confident and effective communicators. Individuals will learn how to manage people and become a leader. You will need to be able to have empathy with characters, and have the ability to view situations from the eyes of another. Drama and Theatre gives you the opportunity to experience the lives of others from different places, cultures, times and contexts.

There are wider opportunities on offer, such as acting workshops, visits to theatres and involvement in school performances. You may get the opportunity to learn how to create a sound track in collaboration with the music department, look at set and props design with the art department and consider marketing and advertising with our media studies experts. You can also work alongside film studies students, acting in their productions and getting yourself a show reel for your trouble, a useful tool for sixth form or college applications!





# A level Film

## WHAT IS IT?

Film Studies is exactly that: studying how films create meanings for an audience. That can be through the type of shot used, the choice of costume, the way it is edited and a number of other creative choices.

You will view British, European, American and global film, and be able to identify how each national cinema does things differently. You will also get the chance to create your own original film, coming up with ideas, shooting and editing as well as considering sound tracks.

You will also be able to look at film as an art form by studying its history and development, as well as current issues that face the ever expanding industry today.

## THE FACTS

**Component 1:** Varieties of Film and Film Making – 35% - Vertigo, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Captain Fantastic, Inception, Trainspotting, This Is England.

**Component 2:** Global Film Making Perspectives – 35% - House of Flying Daggers, Pans Labyrinth, The Arbor, Strike, Pulp Fiction.

**Component 3:** Production – 30% - you will design your own short film extract and write an evaluation. This will be inspired by a variety of short films – The Stutterer, Meshes of the Afternoon, About A Girl, La Jette, Gunfighter, High Maintenance

People who study film go on to film and television production, journalism set/costume/props/make up/ visual effects design, directing, producing, acting, and to work as camera operators, lighting/sound technicians, event organisers, short/feature film makers.....as well as taking part in BBC Apprenticeship Schemes, BFI Academies (making films with other creative people from around the country), getting linked with BAFTA nominees as mentors.....the list is endless!

## WHY STUDY IT?

Film Studies gives you the opportunity not only to analyse films and look at cinema you perhaps have never experienced before, but it also gives you a strong understanding of the wider issues and ideas connected to film studies including theoretical and critical debate. Film reflects the world in which we live, so through analysis and discussion it is possible to see how directors and filmmakers are commenting upon the world in which we live and how we as audiences respond.

There are wider opportunities to develop, such as a visit to the Aesthetica Short Film Festival in York, visiting the BFI (British Film Institute) and I Max Cinema and learning about how to direct in collaboration with the drama department, create a sound track in collaboration with the music department and advertise effectively with the media department.

You get to be creative, coming up with and making your very own film. You will be learning about how to compose a shot, how to use Mise En Scene (visual elements) to create meaning for your audience. You get the opportunity to learn about and use editing software to create your filmic vision, screening it to your class and also at the Ashby Oscars!





# A level Media

## WHAT IS IT?

Media Studies allows you to interrogate the way our world, its events and its people are represented. By looking at a variety of 'media texts' such as film, television, news, print, online sources and radio, you will get the opportunity to engage with how audiences are manipulated into thinking a particular way.

Media Studies combines creativity with theory and allows you to create your own products for a clear purpose. You will be able to make decisions that will influence the audience and get them thinking just the way you want!

## THE FACTS

**Component One:** 35% Media Products, Industries and Audiences focused on Advertising, Marketing, Music Videos, Newspapers, Video Games, Radio and Film.

**Component Two:** 35% Media Forms and Products in Depth, Focused on Television, Magazines and Online Media

**Component Three:** 30% Cross Media Production  
Using a brief set by the exam board, create your own media products with a focus on convergence.

People who study Media go on to, Journalism, Film and Television Production, Radio Production, Set/Costume/ Props/Make Up/Visual effects design, working within the Gaming industry, Advertising and Marketing, Event Promotion, Directing, Producing, Acting, Camera Operators, Lighting/Sound Technicians, Magazine Columnists/Editors, Event Organisers, Short/Feature Film Makers.....as well as taking part in BBC Apprenticeship Schemes in Film, Television or Radio, work experience with online media platforms, interns in the advertising industry.....the list is endless!



## WHY STUDY IT?

You get to be creative, coming up with and making your very own audio visual or print product. You will be learning about how to compose a shot, how to use Mise En Scene (visual codes) to create meaning for your audience. You get the opportunity to learn about and use editing software to create your audio visual or print vision, screening it to your class to develop your ideas and find out if your creative decisions manipulate the audience the way you want them too!

There are wider opportunities to develop, such as a visit to the Aesthetica Short Film Festival in York, visiting the BFI (British Film Institute) and I Max Cinema.

Media Studies allows you to develop a range of transferable skills that will be invaluable in the work place, as well as on higher education courses. Managing time and resources are a focus, as well as clear communication, creativity, problem solving and managing people. Being able to structure and articulate a solid academic argument is at the heart of your analysis, a skill that is vital to any university course.





# A level

# Music Technology

## WHAT IS IT?

Music Technology is vital to today's entertainment industry. As a huge part of any television, theatre, film, and online experience, music technology surrounds us.

It is ever expanding and focuses on the production of music, either through live recordings or using computing and studio technology as it continues to evolve alongside the music industry. Students will explore the development of music technology, with the opportunity to create their own pieces. It isn't essential to be able to play an instrument but students need a passion for listening to, creating and producing music.

## THE FACTS

**Coursework 1:** Recording 20%

**Coursework 2:** Technology Based Composition 20%

**Exam 1:** Listening and Analysing 25%

**Exam 2:** Producing and Analysing 35%

People who study music go on to performing, creating soundtracks for film and television, working on sound in theatres, conducting, composing, producing, mixing, or become radio DJs, events organisers, sound technicians, musical journalists, teachers or instrumental teachers. Students can also take part in residential trips to Dunfield, as well as visiting and taking part in a variety of performances with a range of musical styles in different venues.

## WHY STUDY IT?

There are wider opportunities to develop, such as working with bands, performances in and out of school, working on live sound production and recording. Students may take up opportunities to be involved in school performances, create sound tracks to support film studies students, or work on emotive music in theatre performances.

Students will continue to develop transferable skills throughout the course. These will include self-discipline, practical skills, computing and IT skills, time management, creativity, problem solving, working as part of a team whilst building confidence and communication skills. The ability to also lead others, perform, as well as have a broad knowledge of different cultures will be valuable to university or further employment.





# A level Music

## WHAT IS IT?

Music is both an emotive and academic subject, which has the ability to communicate a range of emotions through both performing and composing. It can also develop social and cultural understanding through the study of music from different periods, cultures and contexts.

Students will be creative through composing their own pieces of music that can be linked to their own interest in music. There are a number of performances where they will develop performing skills either as a solo or part of ensemble. They will develop theoretical skills through studying set works across a range of genres, time periods and a variety of purpose. This will help develop their understanding of music and how it has been influenced through time.

## THE FACTS

**Coursework 1:** Performance 30%.

**Coursework 2:** Composing 30%.

**Exam:** Listening and Analysing 40%.


People who study music go on to performing, creating soundtracks for film and television, working on sound in theatres, radio DJ-ing, conducting, composing, producing, mixing, and to become events organisers, sound technicians, music journalists, teachers or instrumental teachers. Students can also take part in residential trips to Dunfield, as well as visiting and taking part in a variety of performances with a range of musical styles in different venues.

## WHY STUDY IT?

There are wider opportunities to develop performing, composing, listening and analytical skills. Students may take up the opportunity to be involved in school performances, create a sound track to support film studies students, or work on emotive music in theatre performances.

Students will continue to develop transferable skills throughout the course. These will include self-discipline, practical skills, computing and IT skills, time management, creativity, problem solving, working as part of a team whilst building confidence and communication skills. The ability to also lead others, perform, as well as have a broad knowledge of different cultures will be valuable to university or further employment.





# A level Photography

## WHAT IS IT?

Photography is a creative subject that allows those who study it to explore a visual language that communicates to a broad range of audiences. Students learn the technical skills to be able to take a range of different types of photographs, from still life, studio, landscape and portrait photography, to using studio lighting, natural light, camera techniques.

Students also look at different genres and styles of photography. Students will work in a range of ways to develop their own style of photography. They will learn camera technical skills along with how to compose a picture effectively.

There will be first hand experience of photographers' work via exhibition visits. Trips will allow students to explore and capture a range of city and rural subject matter. Year 12 will allow the students to explore a range of photographic approaches while Year 13 is an opportunity for students to refine their skills based on a theme of their choice.

## THE FACTS

**Coursework:** (A Portfolio of work that covers a range of digital and traditional photographic image making) which contributes 60% of the A level grade.

**Exam:** (A unit of work that responds to a range of exam board set themes) which contributes 40% of the A level grade.

Students who study photography could move onto the fields of photo journalism, documentary photography, fashion, portraiture, wedding, commercial, advertising, film making, freelance photography, scientific photography, forensics, magazine editor, television camera operatives, music and events photography and more.

## WHY STUDY IT?

There will be a range of ways to develop as a photographer within and beyond school. There will be chances to document local community gatherings and school activities for publicity purposes. You may take part in workshops at local photography studios, darkrooms and participate in student exhibitions showcasing work produced over the course.

Photography encourages students to engage creatively in a way that is very accessible to them. It is a very popular form of image making that is one of the largest specialisms across the country in both educational settings and as a career. The skills learnt over the course are transferrable. They will learn to meet a clients' needs, constructively criticise themselves and others, as well as learning how to work both independently and as part of a team, along with meeting deadlines, organisation and leadership skills. This course combines creativity, composition, practical and technical skills and explores the purpose of written analysis.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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