ART Key Stage 4 Curriculum

ART CURRICULUM INTENT: PHASE 2 KS4

The Visual Arts Curriculum: A Journey Through Creativity

Our Visual Arts curriculum is rooted in the theme of Creativity, explored through the interconnected ideas of Ourselves, Our Town & County, and Our Planet. These themes shape an ambitious, broad, and balanced journey that spans from Key Stage 3 into Key Stage 4, aiming to create life-long memories and foster a deep appreciation for the visual arts.

The curriculum is carefully designed to deliver key subject knowledge through a spiral structure, where core concepts and skills are revisited and deepened over time. Each year, students engage with the disciplines of 2D Art, 3D Art, building a strong foundation in both practical techniques and theoretical understanding.

GCSE Art Design & Craft AQA

At Trinity Academy St Edward's, the art curriculum is designed to foster a deep passion for design while equipping students with the knowledge and skills to experiment, problem-solve, and think creatively. Students are given the opportunity to explore the work of a diverse range of artists—both historical and contemporary—from around the world, engaging with key art movements and significant periods in art history.

The curriculum promotes students' moral, social, and ethical awareness within an artistic context, encouraging respect for differing viewpoints and cultural perspectives. Through a carefully structured spiral curriculum, students build a strong foundation in the formal elements of art and traditional media. They become proficient in drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and 3D modelling, including clay work.

Year 10 – Exploration and Skill Building

In Year 10, students will begin their creative journey through the **AQA GCSE Art, Design & Craft** course by exploring a wide variety of techniques, materials, and processes. This year is structured around Component 1a and 1b, where students respond to two creative briefs designed to develop their practical and analytical skills.

Throughout the year, students will:

- Investigate and experiment with **2D and 3D media**, including drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, sculpture, and mixed media.
- Study the work of **artists, designers, and makers** from both historical and contemporary contexts.
- Learn how to **develop a personal project**, from initial research and idea generation to final outcomes.
- Be taught how to **analyse and evaluate** visual work using subject-specific vocabulary.

To support independent learning, students will take part in our **Art Homework Programm**e, which encourages research into key creative practitioners. They will also use the **Masters of Recall booklets** to deepen their understanding of the **AQA assessment objectives**, helping them track their progress and refine their work.
Due to the hands-on and creative nature of the subject, students are encouraged to work independently and take ownership of their artistic development.

Year 11 – Refinement and Final Outcomes
In Year 11, students will focus on completing their C**omponent 1 (Portfolio),** which contributes **60% of the final GCSE grade**. This includes refining and presenting their best work from Year 10 and developing new pieces that demonstrate their skills and creativity.
The second part of the year is dedicated to **Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment)**, which makes up the remaining **40% of the final grade**. This includes:

- A preparatory period where students respond to a theme set by AQA.
- A series of **guided research and development tasks** to help them build a strong and personal body of work.
- A final **10-hour controlled assessmen**t in which students produce a resolved piece based on their preparatory studies.

Throughout this component, students are encouraged to showcase their individual strengths in either **2D or 3D art**, demonstrating their creativity, technical ability, and understanding of the subject.

Content
Year 10

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Component 1(a)- 2D Art- The Ocean **2D Art Design & Craft**				**Component 1(b)- The Earth- all creates great and small** (3D Art)- The Insects. **3D Art Design & Craft**	

Year 11

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Component 1(b)- The Earth- all creates great and small (3D Art)- The Insects **3D Art Design & Craft**		**Component 2: Examination** **Externally Set...**			**EXTERNAL COURSE MODERATION**

ART & DESIGN: PHOTOGRAPHY:

Students will develop a strong foundation in the formal elements of photography—line, shape, repetition, focus, space, and composition—while learning to communicate personal narratives and respond thoughtfully to the world around them. The curriculum is structured in a spiralised format, allowing students to revisit and deepen their understanding of key concepts and techniques over time. This includes both the technical and conceptual aspects of photography, ensuring a well-rounded education.

Photography is used as a powerful medium for self-expression, emotional exploration, and social commentary. Students will examine how images can evoke emotion, challenge perceptions, and convey complex ideas without words. Through the study of influential photographers and diverse visual cultures, they will develop empathy, creativity, and critical thinking.

Assessment is rooted in the department's Golden Threads: Development, Experimentation, Recording, Presentation, SMCS (Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, and social development), and Critical Thinking. These threads are embedded throughout the curriculum and used to track progression in both practical and theoretical knowledge.

By the end of the course, students will not only be technically proficient photographers but also confident visual communicators with a strong sense of artistic identity and purpose.

GCSE Photography (AQA) Overview

In Year 10, students will begin their **AQA GCSE Photography** journey by exploring a wide range of photographic techniques, processes, and styles. This foundational year is structured around Component 1a and 1b, which involve responding to two creative briefs. Students will:

- Investigate both contemporary and historical photographers and artists.
- Learn how to develop a personal project, from initial idea to final outcome.
- Be taught how to analyse and evaluate visual work using appropriate terminology.
- To support their learning, students will engage with our Art Homework Programme, which encourages independent research into key artists and photographers. They will also be introduced to the Masters of Recall booklets, which help them understand the assessment objectives and criteria used by AQA.

Year 11 – Refinement and Realisation

In Year 11, students will focus on refining their coursework portfolio in preparation for final assessment. This includes completing all work for Component 1 (Coursework), which is worth 60% of the final grade.

The remainder of the year is dedicated to Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment), which is worth 40% of the final grade. This includes:

- A preparatory period where students respond to a theme set by AQA.

- A series of guided research and development tasks to help them build a strong body of work.
- A final 10-hour controlled test in which students produce a personal outcome based on their preparatory work.

Throughout this component, students are encouraged to showcase their individual strengths in either 2D or 3D photographic work, demonstrating their creativity, technical skill, and understanding of the subject.

Content

Year 10

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Component 1(a)- Component One:–Critical Studies – Objects **Basic Photography Skills.**			**Component 1(b): Sustained Project – Portraiture & Photography.** **Applied Photography Skills.**		

Year 11

Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Component 1(b): Sustained Project – Portraiture & Photography. **Applied Photography Skills & Digital Media.**		**Component 2: Examination** **Applied Photography Skills & Digital Media.**			**EXTERNAL COURSE MODERATION**