



28 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

## **Re: GCSE Art, Craft and Design 2018/2019**

As the GCSE Art students begin Year 11, I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you with some ideas for how you might be able to continue to support your son/daughter as the academic year progresses and also just remind you of the structure of the Art, Craft and Design GCSE.

### **How is the GCSE structured?**

Unit	What does it include?	How much is it worth?
Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 full different projects of work</b></li> <li>1. Year 10 'Food'</li> <li>2. Year 11 'Being Human'</li> <li>• Final piece for each project</li> </ul>	<b>60%</b> of the GCSE
Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 full project of work set by AQA</b></li> <li>• Final piece created in 10 hr exam (over 2 days)</li> </ul>	<b>40%</b> of the GCSE

### **Some Important dates for your Diary**

#### **Tuesday 16 October - Professional Photographer's Practical Workshop in School.**

We have been really lucky to be offered the opportunity to work with a fantastic young professional photographer, Megan Guard, who will be running a full day portrait photographic workshop for Year 11 using professional studio equipment, techniques and ideas based on the students' current 'Being Human' project. Over the course of the day, the students will work alongside Megan to produce composition plans, contact sheets and outcomes which will be entered as part of their Year 11 coursework submission. More details about the day will be given to the students shortly. Following the workshop, both Megan's work and the students' work from the workshop will form a new exhibition in the **OX49 Gallery** and I look forward to inviting you to the private view launch of the show in December.

**Wednesday 9 January 2019** – AQA Exam Question Paper given to all students

**Wednesday 24 April 2019** – Day 1 of Exam (5hrs)

**Thursday 25 April 2019** – Day 2 of Exam (5hrs)

**Wednesday 1 May 2019** – **ALL** coursework to be handed in (no extensions)

### **What work should my son/daughter be doing at the moment?**

All the students have already begun developing their final coursework project for the GCSE entitled 'Being Human'. The students are working through a series of carefully structured tasks and independently developed ideas which will enable them to explore all the skills needed to meet the new GCSE Assessment Objectives. As their project develops they will begin to create a more individual and personal approach to the title. This will be completed under close supervision by me through a process of both task based lessons, independent learning, one to one discussions and structured regular written feedback. I hope that your son/daughter will share their feedback sheets with you so that you can see the progress that they are making and the areas which they need to work into as the unit develops.

### **Do they need to work back into their Year 10 coursework project?**

Yes. The students will shortly receive their fully GCSE marked Year 10 Unit back where I will have given individual specific and detailed feedback for every students Year 10 coursework project. As a group, we will have discussed HOW the students should approach the opportunity

to develop their earlier work and WHAT they have to do to improve the GCSE mark at which the project currently sits. I will send an additional copy of the feedback home to you so that you can discuss their work and see clearly the areas which they need to work into to improve or secure their current working at grade. All of the students know that they will need to work into this project outside of lesson time either after school with me on any day or as homework. Given the need to create their final course work project for Year 11, I am not able to offer any additional lesson time to work back into their Year 10 project until after the completion of the Exam Unit in April 2019. Following the exam the students will have an opportunity to complete all outstanding coursework for both the Year 10 and the Year 11 projects before the **final coursework hand in deadline on the 1 May**.

### **How can I help my son/daughter?**

**Homework** - Please check their sketchbook feedback and progress sheets to see what they have been working on in class and what they should be doing at home. I will post homework, checklists, and screen shots of the class whiteboard and reminders of assessment deadlines on Show My Homework. Encourage your son/daughter to work steadily and regularly rather than for hours and hours occasionally. This way they will retain confidence as the year progresses.

**Be prepared for all lessons** - Please do make a point of finding out when their art lessons are in the week and encourage them to check that they have all their work with them for each lesson. Students often waste valuable lesson time because they have left work at home.

**Research opportunities** - Depending on the direction your son/daughter takes for their Year 11 project they would really benefit from your ability to support/enable an independent visit or trip. For example this might be to take a local trip, going for a walk, to visit an Oxford Art Gallery, Museum, local town, place of interest, or conduct some interviews etc. These experiences add a great deal to their work and should not have to involve any great expense at all.

**'Checking in'** - Simply taking a regular interest in what they are working on and how it's going will really help them to focus and remain confident. If they reach the inevitable low point during the next few months please remind them that they have worked so hard throughout their course and that they DO have the knowledge and skills to succeed.

### **What more could they do?**

The very strong results this year for the new Art GCSE show clearly that the students who were the most successful were those who really engaged in their learning and took every opportunity available to them to independently develop and extend their portfolio submission. I am always available for advice and support at every break, lunch time and at the end of each school day. Your son/daughter can access and use the Art Department facilities and materials every lunchtime and work with me after school on any day where I am available. All students should be joining me for the **GCSE After School Art Club** every **Wednesday 3pm – 4.30pm** where possible.

I hope that you have found this letter helpful and that you will enjoy being part of your son/daughters Year 11 Art, Craft and Design GCSE as the year progresses. I feel that an open channel between home and school is the most supportive way to help your son/daughter work towards achieving their GCSE potential next Summer. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to email or give me a call.

I look forward to meeting you again at Parents' Evening on the 7 February 2019.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Parker  
Head of Art