NORTH BROMSGROVE HIGH SCHOOL & SIXTH FORM
Abeunt in Studius Mores
Studies Determine Character

Key Stage 5 Curriculum Overview

Art and Design: Photography

Staff List 2025-26

Name	Job Role	Contact Email
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Curriculum Intent

In art and design, we encourage diversity and difference in our students in an environment that will challenge their creativity and talent. The "creative industries" are now one of the most important generators of wealth in this country. A visual education will be advantageous for everyone in the 21st century. The course will introduce students to a wide range of art and design skills including drawing, painting and mixed media work. For students undertaking an art and design course there is a lot more on offer than the development of skills and confidence with new processes, techniques and materials. Students learn how to think creatively and independently and exercise their problem-solving skills. At North Bromsgrove we are interested in understanding the notion that engagement in arts and culture helps our students to know who they are, engage with the world around them and navigate choices, as they get older. To facilitate this, they are introduced to a broad range of artists, learn how to analyse and understand their work and have choice in the development of their own work and ideas. By making the students take ownership of their work we hope they leave more resilient and better capable to find new solutions to uncertain situations.
Our qualifications have a large workload and students who work hard emerge with organisational and time-management skills that transfer to all areas of the curriculum.

Exam Board and Link to Specification

We follow the AQA specification. Here is the link: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/as-and-a-level/art-and-design/

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Year 12	The theme of 'Growth and Decay' is explored through an introduction to photography. Students will explore the history of photography, technical skills and gaining critical awareness. Students explore different materials, techniques and processes through each assignment. Introduction to research skills, methods and a range of sources. Students research the work of appropriate photographers and/or other contextual material to inform their own work. Students create a final personalised outcome.	Students develop photoshop editing skills and critical analysis skills through a series of workshops based on the theme of 'Surrealism'. Students create a final personalised outcome. Students begin to investigate ideas, themes and issues for their extended project. **AO1** Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.	Personal investigation. **AO1** Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding. **AO3** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress. **AO2** Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
Year 13	**Complete Personal investigation.** **AO2**	**AO4** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes	**Externally Set Examination**

	Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops. **AO4** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.	connections between visual and other elements. **Personal Investigation deadline** 31st Jan **Externally Set Examination** Paper issued 1st Feb	Student complete a final response to their theme in 15 hours of supervised time. Their sketchbooks, written study and the finished piece completed in the examination time account for 40% of the students A Level grade.

Assessment Overview

Component 1: Portfolio 60%
In Component 1 the emphasis should be on self-directed study based on a personal, issue, interest or theme. They will be expected to work independently, demonstrating increasing confidence in their ability to explore and handle ideas, issues or themes, materials, techniques and processes. The work they produce should consider historical/ critical/contextual elements and evidence of how they have developed their ideas for a final outcome or a series of final outcomes.
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Component 2: Externally set assignment 40%
In Component 2 students should demonstrate greater maturity and depth in skills, knowledge and understanding. The Externally set assignment provides opportunities for students to work in depth, responding to one of a choice of broad starting points. They are expected to carry out research and provide investigations into their chosen theme, develop ideas and make connections with the work of others. Named photographers are included in each starting point, but students are free to consider other appropriate sources. In the 15 hours of supervised time, students produce a final outcome or series of final outcomes which must be identified as such.

How we build on prior learning
Links to retrieval and how the curriculum is sequenced to support prior learning and make learning memorable
As a skills-based A Level, students are encouraged to build on their acquisition of skills in project-based assignments where they learn from experience when exploring and experimenting with ideas, processes, media, materials and techniques.
They also build upon their knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.

Cross-curricular links with other subjects
- English Materials Technology History Maths

Enrichment opportunities
We operate an open-door policy for students to access art rooms during their study period and after school. During these sessions students are invited to develop and extend ideas and practical work as part of their NEA portfolio. *We encourage students to enter their work for competitions/exhibitions ie: Voices and Visions and The Royal Academy Young Artists Summer Exhibition*

Useful links and resources to support learning
- Student Art Guide

This site's aim lies in helping art students excel in their Art & Design course. It has articles on everything from time management to self-motivation, project ideas, technical advice, creating one's own websites and career prospects within the art world.
- Pinterest

The Art Department's Pinterest account has themed visual folders to support students' portfolio developments https://www.pinterest.co.uk/northbromsgrove/boards/

- YouTube videos are a great resource for students who get stuck on a homework task. Step-by-step tutorials are available for most skills and processes on the course.

How can parents/carers support learning at home?

Ensuring that students have access to a DSLR camera both for lessons and at home. Take an active interest in the development of sketchbook work and that they are completing each week. Looking for exhibitions and 'what's on' at art galleries will enable them to see photography in a live environment.

Studying and art and design subject is helpful if you are thinking about careers in:

Animation	**3D Modelling**	**Architect**	**Computer Graphic**
Advertising	Photographer	Web Designer	Set Design
Prop Designer	Curator	Make-up Artist	Fine Artist
Jewellery Designer	Illustrator	Gallery Education	Creative Director

https://discovercreative.careers/