

Year 11 into A Level

Fine Art Transition work 2023

If you are choosing Fine Art as one of your A-Levels at sixth form, you may start working on this now. Even if you are attending college/another sixth form, the courses generally run in the same way, so this work would also be appropriate for that pathway too.

There are two elements to this work:

1. Drawing from Life
2. A Day in the Life

1. **Drawing from Life**

During your A Level course you will be 'drawing from life more often'. This means drawing from real things and objects. This means NOT WORKING FROM PHOTOGRAPHS – no tracing, and no using grids. Drawing from life is an important discipline for any artist, and it is a skill that will serve you well in any creative career, from architecture to theatre design, from fashion design to advertising. Your drawing can be very expressive. Experiment with different drawing materials.

a. Self-portrait – make 4 x A5 studies of your own head from different angles. Do not use photographs, use a mirror. Each study should take about 15 minutes.

Then make 1 x A4 detailed drawing of your face, using a mirror. Pay attention to detail and tonal work. Think about light, sit by a window to make your drawing, or light your face with a table lamp. Use pencil or biro for your quick studies. Use any appropriate material for A4 drawing, pencil is fine, but if you wish to add colour, that's OK too.

b. Still life – set up a still life from a minimum of three objects that you can find around the house. These objects could be small, for example – watches, jewellery, phone etc. They could be larger – e.g. tins and packets of food, or larger still – e.g. a chair with a guitar on it. Make a number of drawings, from different angles, in different media of your still life set up, then decide on a particular view point and spend 2 or 3 hours on a careful drawing using A3 or A4 drawing paper. Do not photograph your set up, just draw what you see. Good drawing is 90% observation.

2. **A Day in the Life ...**

During your a Level Art course you will taking a lot of photographs. You do not need a fancy camera for this (although you may use a fancy camera if you wish) your phone will do fine. 'A Day in the Life' is an opportunity for you to document a typical day. Take a photograph every hour, on the hour from when you get up, to when you go to bed. You could take a series of 'selfies' throughout the day, you could photograph objects in front of you, or the indoor or outdoor spaces you occupy during the day. If you get up just before 8.00am, and go to bed at 10.30pm, you will have taken 15 photographs. Present your photographs on a PowerPoint, or print them out. Make sure you label the photographs with the time they were taken.