

Art and Design Skills Diploma level 2

Course Overview

Our established visual arts department offers this BTEC level 2 diploma course aimed at those who are interested in art and design. It is a practical course and requires creative talent and a committed attitude. There is a strong emphasis on research, development and evaluation. The course is a one-year full time programme that leads to entry onto our range of level 3 extended diploma art and design qualifications. This qualification is equivalent to x4 GCSEs at grade 4. If you are re-sitting GCSE English and Maths you could be studying up to 6 GCSE equivalent on this single-year study programme. If you are aged 16 to 18, you will be enrolled on a study programme. This will include retaking GCSEs or undertaking Functional Skills in English and maths if you haven't already achieved a grade 4 or above. You will take part in activities that help you to develop your personal skills, such as building your character and confidence. This will help you to live well and move into your chosen career. If you are 16-19 years old these activities will be timetabled as will work experience and placement. You can also choose to take part in other activities. For other age groups, activities will be tailored to your needs.

What you will learn

The BTEC level 2 course covers painting, drawing, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, 3D/Ceramic design, and art history. You will also learn how to use appropriate machinery safely within our specialist workshops. You will have the opportunity to work with our own in house practitioners and also with external practitioners, developing and refining your creative skills. Projects are varied and allow the opportunity to explore and experiment with all pathways, resulting in finished pieces for your own ongoing portfolio.

Entry Requirements

You will require a minimum three GCSEs at a grade 3, one must be in a design-related GCSE related subject, one in English (literature or language), and one other subject. Maths grade 3 is desirable. You will also require a portfolio which demonstrates your suitability for your chosen course.

Course Fees

There is a potential trip fee of £20-30.

Course Progression

The successful completion of this course provides access to all our BTEC level 3 Diploma/Extended Diploma in Arts Practice courses - (these are equivalent to three A levels) including art and design, fashion; graphic design; and photography. You will also be equipped with the skills and knowledge to undertake junior roles within the art and design industry. You will require achieving a grade 4 or equivalent in English or maths to progress to a level 3 qualification the following academic year.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website, or if your school uses the Positive Steps @16 (PS16) application system please apply through this and speak to your careers advisor if you are unsure. You will need details of your qualifications and employment history, a reference, and a personal statement to complete your application. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be sent a conditional offer and be invited to a Welcome Event at the College to meet your tutors, learn more about your chosen course of study and tour the facilities. You will then need to confirm your acceptance of the course offered to you.

Course Details

Course Code	P00101
Start Date	07/09/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Campus	St Margaret's Campus
Level	2

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