

An artist wearing a white lab coat is working on a large, abstract painting. The painting features vibrant colors like blue, purple, pink, and yellow, with a prominent purple mouth shape in the center. The artist's hands are visible, one holding a piece of brown fabric or paper that is being placed on the painting. The background is a workshop setting with various art supplies and equipment.

Art at A Level



KING EDWARD VI
ASTON SCHOOL

Educational excellence for our City

Welcome to the Art
Department

Why study Fine Art?

This two-year course provides a stimulating, creative but structured basis for those intending to pursue Art and Design at this higher level. Art A Level at King Edwards Aston is for those with a strong interest in creating and understanding Visual Arts, and who have the determination and enthusiasm to develop personal directions and outcomes through analysis, critical thinking and exploration.

As well as specific skills related to competence in art, the study of this subject is widely credited with nurturing all-round problem solving skills, visual analysis, the ability to find creative solutions and make critical judgements, and the capacity to work outside your comfort zone.



What skills will I learn?

Alongside the practical expertise you'll develop in your studies, you'll also learn transferable skills valued in both higher education and the world of work:

- analytical thinking
- creative problem solving
- working independently
- research methods
- understanding how context shapes meaning
- how to communicate effectively



The course begins with a structured 'two-term foundation' designed to introduce pupils to the four-assessment objectives and good A Level practice. Based around a title, all pupils will learn how to:

AO1 - develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding;

AO2 – experiment with explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops;

AO3 - record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress;

AO4 - present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.



Component 1 - Personal Investigation

From September, until the end of January of the second year.

This needs to be a coherent, in-depth study, supported by written work that demonstrates the pupil's ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. Students are required to write a 1000 – 3000 essay to explain their thoughts comprehensively.

Component 2 - Externally set assignment

From 1st February, of the second year of study, until the end of the exam date in May.

Following receipt of the examination paper, pupils consider the starting points, select one and carry out an in-depth study (based on assessment objectives) until the start of the unaided, supervised examination time. Work is concluded during 15 hours exam pupils informed by their preparatory work and planning for their outcome(s).



Trips, events and visits

There are numerous opportunities for students to participate in throughout the course.

Students are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of activities outside of their timetabled curriculum lessons, as well as within lesson. This includes trips, locally to museums and galleries and abroad (Paris and Barcelona in past years), competitions, visiting speakers from the creative industry as well as weekly clubs which are advertised to the students every term.



Art and design is about using your creative and analytical skills to explore the world around you, working across a range of media to start developing your practical expertise.

Whether you want to pursue a career in the creative industries or complement your other subjects, AS and A-level Art has a lot to offer.

For those intending to undertake Foundation or Degree Courses, A Level Art is vital and is relevant to a wide range of careers. These include advertising and graphic design, working in media, film and TV, architecture, fashion and textiles, interior design, gaming design, engineering, theatre, museum, gallery work and of course, working as a photographer or an artist. Sub skills learned such as analytical and observation of detail as well as dexterity will also benefit less obvious careers such as forensics. Pupils who have aptitude and interest in the subject but do not intend to take the subject beyond A Level, would also find the course rewarding and challenging. Pupils could also go straight into a job or course that will encourage creativity, problem solving skills, understanding, and knowledge that is recognised in all vocations and are attributes many employers are looking for.

Where can Art take you?

