

Subject	KS4 Threshold Concepts	How to support students' learning
Year 9 Art & Design	During Year 9 students will prepare for and begin their GCSE portfolio work. The first part of the year begins with a focus on painting skills; they will be taught both watercolour and acrylic painting techniques and will experiment with these before making two artist reference studies and analysis. At this point in the course they will need to decide upon which one of the 'Natural Forms' themes they wish to focus upon, in order that work is more directed and purposeful. They will spend the rest of the year learning new skills, refining techniques and developing observations and ideas in a range of media. Skills and Processes Watercolour Painting Acrylic Painting Pencil drawing Pen drawing Charcoal drawing Ink Drawing Monoprinting Dry point etching Cyanotype work Natural Forms Themes Animals Bones and Fossils Plant Life Insects Rocks and Minerals	• Encourage your child to keep up with their half-termly drawing homework in the sketchbooks provided for them. • Encourage your child to investigate their chosen Natural Forms theme as much as possible; this may be in the form of online research, image collection, reading books or taking photographs. This will help to inform their portfolio work later in the course. • Encourage your child to sketch and draw on a regular basis in order to further improve their confidence. There are many online videos which can support or enhance students' drawing techniques such as: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PO3T5xOmxhg https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yw0hvBUjPrQ • Encourage your child to view exemplar GCSE work such as can be found on our online curriculum here: https://portal.ttsonline.net/Subject/51/Art/ and also online such as here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yx10E6sxVyQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SysYtzN7co • Encourage your child to make museum or gallery visits if possible. The Natural History museum (London or Tring or Oxford for example) would be beneficial, as would any art galleries, such as Birmingham or Wolverhampton, where they would be able to experience different styles and genres of Art.
Year 10 Art & Design	During Year 10 students will develop a more personal approach to their project. They will be introduced to a wide range of artists and will develop a personal artist reference board using the artworks they have chosen. Students will then use the knowledge gained from studying these artists	• Encourage your child to attend Session 3 for Art; during this time they can complete or make improvements to their coursework portfolios

	to develop their own ideas using a range of media and will experiment, test and evaluate. As part of their development of ideas they will take a number of purposeful photographs for their chosen theme which they can then use as primary source material for making further studies. Students will also begin presenting their work more formally as study boards this year. Skills and Processes Painting media Drawing media Photography Image Transfer Photo manipulation Mixed media Layering processes	• Encourage your child to further research the artists they have selected to study for their artist reference work. They could create additional research presentations as Powerpoint, for example. • Encourage your child to take photographs towards their chosen natural forms theme; these may be taken on a camera or a phone. They should consider composition and lighting when taking any photographs, and may also edit them using online apps such as pixlr or other editing apps they may have access to. Any successful photographs or edits may enhance their portfolio and help them when developing their ideas during Year 10. • Encourage your child to keep up their drawing and sketching practice; they may start making more complex sketches planning out their ideas or combining different drawings together and this will help them in the development of their final piece in Year 11.
Year 11 Art & Design	During the first term of Year 11 students will design and create final pieces for their coursework portfolio project. Taking forward ideas developed during Year 10, as well as inspiration from their chosen artists, they will produce a 2D final piece in any media they choose. This piece is seen as a conclusion to their project and should demonstrate a student's best skills, techniques and ideas. During this term they will also produce a ceramic response to their project theme; this is often created as part of our Artist in Residence Scheme From January – April students will undertake the 'set task' examination project. They will be able to choose from a range of titles sent by the examination board and will then produce studies in order to investigate their chosen title. At the end of the project they will create their final piece during a 10 hour (2 day) examination.	• Encourage your child to attend Session 3 for Art; this is particularly important during the examination project period (from January-April) which has very short deadlines. • Encourage your child to research their chosen examination title as thoroughly as possible in January of Year 11; this may be in the form of online research, image collection, reading books or taking photographs. This will help to inform their portfolio work later in the course. • Encourage your child to take photographs towards their chosen examination title; these may be taken on a camera or a phone. They should consider composition and lighting when taking any photographs, and may also edit them using online apps such as pixlr or other editing apps they may have access to. Any successful photographs or edits will enhance and inspire ideas toward their final piece.

