

What is the course about?

Students opting for Art in Year 9 will be introduced to a broad range of creative experiences. They will gain understanding of a wide variety of materials to improve technical ability and develop their own personal response from a given starting point to produce ambitious final pieces. The course aims to encourage individuality and nurture skills that prepare students for a variety of future pathways.



What topics will I study?

Students will look at contextual influences such as artists, cultures and events. Within the Year 9 GCSE, pupils will experience a broad range of approaches giving them the opportunity to be experimental with both ideas and media. Previous topics have included Japan, Street Art, Contemporary Illustration and Surrealism.

In Year 10 and 11 students continue to build on prior skills gained in Year 9 with a clear focus on specific artists and themes. The Portfolio Unit culminates in a large scale final outcome. Previous topics covered include Cubism, Pop Art, Graphic Design, Photography and Portraiture.

What activities will there be?

We have strong links with the Reading University Institute of Education Art Department, giving students the opportunity to visit the department and use the facilities. We also organise collaborative trips with the University that enrich students Art experience.

The Art Department offer a range of after school catch up sessions which students are encouraged to attend. In the past this has proved a successful contributor in helping students realise their potential.

What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

60% of the Art GCSE is coursework. This encapsulates all work completed within class and home learning. The remaining 40% is an Externally Set Task from the exam board completed towards the end of Year 11.

What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Art GCSE leads to a range of courses at Further and Higher Education. Previous Emmbrook students have specialised in various disciplines including: Fine Art, Fashion, Architecture, Animation, Illustration and Graphics, Theatre Design and Games, Web and Product Design. Universities, including the Russell Group Institutes, recognise the importance of students undertaking a rounded and diverse curriculum. All Emmbrook students who apply for a Post 16 & 18 Art related course are successful in their application.

Examboard and useful website?

AQA Art & Design

Visiting galleries and exploring the websites of The Tate Galleries, The National Gallery, The Royal Academy, Hayward Gallery, Serpentine Gallery, White Cube and the Saatchi Gallery.

