

# A Level Art AQA

Find out more



LINEAR

## Why Study Art

Here at Tretherras we offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences for students within art. We believe it is important to offer a range of processes and techniques for students to explore. These include traditional Drawing and Painting, Ceramics, Sculpture, Printmaking, Photography and Digital Art.

Under-pinning our courses and projects is the importance of introducing students to the multitude of influence out there in the world of art today: from historical to contemporary, local to global the world of art is changing and evolving, and we want our art department and our students' work to reflect that.

Art students at Tretherras are fortunate to have access to a vast range of facilities. We have 3 large traditional art rooms equipped with every resource under the sun. We have a professional standard PC suite and photography classroom running Adobe Creative Cloud Suite. We are equipped with a professional Photography studio as well as a darkroom for traditional film and wet based Photography. We have a specialist kiln and ceramics room to facilitate the Ceramics element to our curriculum.

We strongly believe in our role of developing independent and motivated creative thinkers ready to embark on their next steps to university or the world of work in the creative industries which is an important part of the economy in the Southwest.

## About the course

A Level Art develops a student's skills, knowledge, and critical understanding of the World of Art. We offer a two-year linear A Level. During the first year there is no externally assessed coursework or exam. This year is for experimentation, skills development and exploring new ideas and ways of working. In the second year we study 2 components, the first a Personal Investigation which is the student's coursework and comprises 60% of their grade, the second is their EST or exam component comprising 40% of their grade.

### Year 12

In the first part of Year 12 students will embark on a teacher led foundation course designed to challenge their skills and knowledge. This will be based around two projects, the first looking at "Environment" and the second "The Human Form". These themes are vehicles for students to learn how to explore a range of materials, processes, and concepts. They will work with everything from traditional drawing, painting, mixed media, to photography, printmaking, and

sculpture.

The second part of the year is given to the students to practice developing a sustained project they design themselves in preparation for their "Personal Investigation" in Year 13. This will help them with independent thinking and time management skills.

No work is externally assessed in Year 12.

### Year 13

In Year 13 students start their "Personal Investigation". This is a piece of coursework that is designed by the students and comprises 60% of their grade. This is a sustained project that shows an in-depth study of an idea, concept, or theme of their choice, accompanied by a 3000-word essay that demonstrates their critical and analytical thinking of their own work as it evolves.

The second component is their EST or exam, comprising 40% of their grade. This is set by the exam board and is usually a choice of 7 questions which act as starting points to themes and ideas. The students choose one and work on preparatory work from February until the start of May when they then sit a 15-hour exam. All work from February and the 15-hour exam is assessed.

## Assessment

Assessment is through the Personal Investigation component (coursework) 60% and the EST component (exam) 40% and takes place in Year 13. Work is assessed across 4 Assessment Objectives. See the NT website for details.

## Entry criteria

Students are expected to have gained a grade 6 at GCSE Art or a very strong grade 5 with the endorsement of their GCSE teacher. Students who have not taken the subject at GCSE should present a portfolio for consideration.

## Outside the classroom

We believe that it is important for an art student's education to take them to see artwork in the context of museums and galleries. Trips to London, St Ives, Plymouth, and Dartmoor are a regular part of our calendar. We also work with local artists on projects with students, which gives them the chance to visit and see artists working in their studios. Previous artists involved have been Peter- Randall Page and Susan Derges and Tony Plant.