



A level Graphic Design

Who is this course for?

Graphic Design is an excellent choice for anyone with a vivid interest in visual communication, the art of conveying an idea with word and imagery for a commercial purpose. The course enables students to explore aspects of graphic design such as illustration, typography and advertising through a varied approach of media. Students are encouraged to combine traditional hand rendered methods painting and printmaking with digital methods such as Photoshop. We offer an imaginative course with considerable opportunities to experiment with media and creative design work, where you will work with a variety of materials, techniques and processes in order to express and answer a visual problem with imagination. The course demands a strong work ethic and independent commitment. If you achieved well and enjoyed Art & Design at school this could be the course for you. Graphic Design is often studied alongside related courses such as Fine Art and Photography, Sculpture and Textiles, but can also serve as a complementary study route, offering an element of variety to an intense academic programme.



What are the entry criteria?

In all but the most exceptional cases, a Grade C in Art and Design and English Language are the absolute minimum requirements.

The Art department at Wyke Sixth Form College

The Graphic Design studio forms part of a purpose built open plan teaching space offering access to drawing painting and printmaking facilities. Access to digital equipment Photoshop and Illustrator is also available.

A wider range of visual and contextual materials are made freely available, many designed by the teaching team.

The Graphic Design course is taught solely by Serena Wright.

Exam Board

AQA

Course Details

The course is delivered as four distinct units of study, which introduce the skills of visual communication, and discipline of Graphic Design, each unit then builds onto prior knowledge which will test creative skills and working with imagination to a design brief. You will communicate ideas, through word and image, media handling, ideas development, contextual research and visual realisation. Quality of written expression is especially important in the second year of study.

AS Graphic Design.

ARTC1

A first body of coursework is internally set and marked and is concerned with the construction of a portfolio of skill building, formal elements and introduction to typography illustration packaging.

ART C2

An externally set exam paper is released in February of each year offering a choice of themes for independently researched visual development and contextual work. The culmination of this body of work is a five-hour exam undertaken in April in which a summative piece of visual work relating to the exam question is undertaken.

A2 Graphic Design

ART C3

A personal investigation is undertaken in the first period of second year study; the theme for this work is agreed via negotiation between the individual student and the course team and generally originates from themed starting points to allow an individual interpretation and interest. This component of the course also requires the undertaking of an illustrated essay related in theme to the nature of the personal investigation.

Art C4

An externally set exam paper is released in February offering a choice of themes for independently researched visual development and contextual work. The culmination of this body of work is a fifteen-hour exam undertaken in April in which a summative piece of visual work relating to the exam question is undertaken.

How the course is delivered

The course is rooted in direct creative activity supported by individual tutorial discussion and reference to exemplar material created by teaching staff, students and established historical significant Artists, designers and illustrators a wide range of practitioners. Careful guidance is given with regard to the construction and presentation of individual, outcomes, sketchbooks and portfolios, supported by visual example and written and verbal instruction.

Departmental Enrichment

The department as a whole offers an open door policy, in order that space, materials and creative opportunities are maximised. Regular twilight studio sessions are held throughout the year and the studio is available every lunchtime for private study. Further individual support is always available on request and the level of pastoral care afforded by the department is highly regarded.

Student success

The department is well experienced in guiding students to success. Over the last four years students of Graphic Design have gone on to study the subject at degree level at institutions as diverse as Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester, Nottingham, Bristol, Canterbury and London. At present the high achievement rate, for the Graphic Design course is above the National Average and students have achieved A* grades every year since their introduction.

“I really enjoyed studying Graphic Design. This course has really helped me widen my ideas, because at the beginning of the course if I had an idea, I

didn't want to change it at all, but now when I have an idea I want to keep developing it to make it even better. Although it does require a lot of effort to produce good work and a well presented sketchbook, I had the passion for the subject which drove me to get an A at AS. I would definitely recommend it to any student who enjoys this subject.

I am hoping to go into a career in Graphic Design and am looking at doing a Foundation course before university.” Sarah Shields A2 Graphic Student



Honor Janes A2 Graphic Student

What does this course lead to?

An A level in Graphic Design may lead naturally to a pre-degree foundation course and then degree level study in a wide range of art & design based disciplines. The study of Graphic design at degree level can lead to career opportunities in a wide and varied field. Graphic Design students become freelance creative practitioners or work for design companies in many areas including; interior design, jewellery, graphics, illustration, animation, architecture, set design, fashion and textiles, and a host creative digital industries. Graphic design study may also open opportunities in the field of animation web design advertising and illustration.

What can I do now that would help prepare me for this course?

This course is creatively demanding and requires an open minded and industrious approach. The best preparation for this course can be direct observation drawing undertaken on an almost daily basis, studying at length and in detail the qualities of everyday objects, architecture and figurative subjects in addition a keen interest in graphic styles, packaging, typography and photography. Taking an active interest in the history of the subject is also recommended. Both the Ferens Art Gallery in the city and Beverley art gallery offer splendid opportunities to view paintings and artefacts at first hand.