



A level Textiles

Who is this course for?

AS Textiles is suitable for students who have previously studied and Art based subject or a Textile course at GCSE level. If you achieved well and enjoyed Art & Design or Textiles at school this could be the course for you. Textiles is often studied alongside related courses such as Fine Art, Sculpture, Graphic Design, and Photography but can also serve as a complementary study route, offering an element of variety to an intense academic programme.

The course is designed for students who have an eye for pattern and design or highly decorative work. The course will introduce students to a wide range of printmaking for example, mono print, etching, lino, collagraph and silkscreen onto fabric which then can be worked into further with machine or hand stitch embroidery. Students will not only develop print making skills, they will learn how to create their own fabric samples by experimenting with dyeing fabric, batik, felt making, applique and manipulating fabrics to represent work or patterns studied from a particular set theme.

Students benefit from trips to galleries and exhibitions throughout the year in particular the Knit and Stitch Show and also to the annual A2 London trip, which is a highlight for many students.



What are the entry criteria?

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

The Art department at Wyke Sixth Form College

The Textile room offers a comfortable environment for students to create work in. The art department is situated in a purpose-built studio, which enable a positive learning experience for all students, students are encouraged to use the facilities and equipment in their free time if need be. There is a printmaking room for the textile students which is well equipped with a wide range of print materials. Access to digital equipment is also available.

Exam Board

AQA

Apply online at www.wyke.ac.uk

Course Details

The course is extremely visual with many exemplar materials and resources which have been developed by teaching staff. The course is delivered as four distinct units of study, which test the skills of observation, media handling, ideas development, contextual research and visual realisation. Quality of written expression is especially important in the second year of study.

AS Textiles

ART B1

A first body of coursework is internally set and marked and is concerned with the construction of a portfolio of studio based work following a themed brief students will learn new skills such like printmaking, felt making, constructed textiles, dyeing and manipulation of fabric. Students will choose their preferred strength to create a final outcome whether it be a small garment, accessory, wall hanging or decorative print in response to the theme.

ART B2

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. Some new skills will be taught however students will be encouraged to advance the skills learnt in the coursework unit.

A2 Fine Art

ART B3

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. This component of the course also requires the undertaking of an illustrated essay related in theme to the nature of the personal investigation.

Art B4

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

To begin with the course is very much tutor led with workshops introducing new ways of working in textiles. Students will be inducted onto machinery and how to use equipment correctly and safely. Students will be encouraged to look closely often observing texture, pattern and colour for their themed topic.

The course is extremely practical, with a fine art bias, and with an emphasis on printmaking. Students have the opportunity to develop their own prints onto fabric designing and making their own decorative fabric and learning new ways to manipulate fabric. Students will have a good basis to then build on the skills learnt to then go on to develop interior wallpaper, fabrics, wall hangings, interior accessories, fashion accessories, garments and many other creative outcomes. Students are also encouraged to work outside the sketchbook developed design sheets to show demonstrate development of a final outcome.

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. Also a new knitting club/enrichment has been set up during the Autumn/Winter season

Student success

Elliot Wynn, an A2 textile student gained an A* with his imaginative embroidery designs and thoughtful concepts which underpinned his work. Elliot clearly enjoyed working with imagination and ideas and practical aspects of the subject. His ambitious outcomes combined dress construction skills with detailed manipulation of fabric through dyeing, embroidery stitch and beading. This year he has enrolled onto a Foundation Art and Design course to enable him to identify his specialist area with the aspiration to study at University.

What does this course lead to?

An A-level in Textile Design could be the start of a career in fashion and textiles.

You will be able to progress to university to an Art-related degree course through the pre-degree Foundation Diploma in Art and Design. This could lead to either an textile or fashion related degree more specialist such like, printed textiles and surface pattern, interior design, costume design, set/theatre design, fashion design, fashion illustration, fashion and business related career, teaching or a whole host creative other creative industries.

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

This course is extremely hands on and creatively demanding which needs a hard working approach. Taking an interest in the history of textiles or even observing how fabrics have been printed or how something may have been constructed is also recommended. The Ferens Art Gallery in the city, the Ropewalk Art Gallery in Barton and Beverley Art Gallery offer splendid opportunities to view working textile designers first hand. Or reading magazines such like Vogue or Embroidery magazines, or if you have an interest in fashion designers this is also highly recommended.