A Level Art, Craft & Design (AQA)

100% A*-B in 2026

Head of Department: Miss H Jones

Join the Creative Economy Every good company realises that creativity and good design are important factors in generating new business. So your creativity isn't just a way of satisfying your artistic soul, it can open the door to exciting career opportunities as well. This popular A Level is a practical course that allows you to be as creative as you want to be.

A Diverse Course During your A Level you will find out about a whole range of different media, techniques and processes. From charcoal to digital design, you cannot have enough ideas when it comes to expressing yourself. The course is big on hands-on experience too; it is the work you produce that counts. Make sure to look around the corridors at Urmston Grammar and the school's Twitter account to see past student work.

The department teaches a wide range of techniques using materials as part of the curriculum delivery such as:
- Watercolour, acrylic and oil painting, dry pastel, oil pastel, charcoal and graphite
- Textiles, mixed media approaches, batik, fabric painting, bonding, machine and hand embroidery
- Printing: mono printing, collographs and screen-printing
- Digital photography and image manipulation using commercial software used in the professional industry

Key Learning Topics The emphasis in this course is learning by doing, so you'll be able to create imaginative personal work.

We offers a number of enrichment opportunities to students including a trip to London, Manchester Gallery and museum visits, and workshops from local established artists,

Where will Success Take me? Many students go on to take higher education in Art and Design including courses at the Ruskin School of Fine Art at Oxford University and The University of Arts, London, then aim to join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, typographers or become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers, photographers to name just a few. For those ambitious to become architects, this is an essential subject choice for university entry.

A Level Component 1: Personal Investigation
- 60% total A Level
- Candidates develop a personal investigation supported by between 1000 and 3000 words

A Level Component 2: Externally Set Assignment
- 40% total A Level
- An exam based assignment set by AQA
- Preparation time + 15 hours supervised time

You will build on experiences gained at GCSE where you will continue to explore and develop your use of materials and associated techniques. Your ideas will be linked closely to extension work and developed through your knowledge of historical and critical studies.

