



Dear Parent/Carer,

We're delighted that your child has chosen to study GCSE Fine Art with us here at Harris.

The GCSE Art course is split into two components:

- Component 1 (60%) – This is coursework completed throughout Year 10 and the autumn term of Year 11. It is made up entirely of sketchbook and practical work, with no written exam.
- Component 2 (40%) – This begins in the spring of Year 11 and includes a preparatory project (worth 75%) followed by a 10-hour practical exam (worth 25%) in which students create a final piece.

In Year 10, students will begin by exploring a range of media and techniques through themes like portraiture and Pop Art. The early stages of the course are supported with teacher-led workshops to help students grow in confidence with different materials. As the year progresses, students will begin working more independently, developing their own ideas through sketchbooks and final outcomes.

By Year 11, all work is independently led, with regular one-to-one support and feedback from teachers to ensure each student is progressing and confident in their direction.

To be successful in Art, students will need to work consistently outside of class. We expect students to spend 2–3 hours per week working on their coursework at home. To support this, we ask each student to have access to the following equipment at home:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Home Equipment List: | • Oil pastels |
| • Watercolour paints | • Alcohol markers |
| • Ink palette | • Glue stick |
| • Paintbrushes | • Scissors |
| • White gel pen | • 30cm ruler |
| • Coloured pencils | • Black ballpoint pens |
| • Fine liner pens | • Shading pencils |
| • Blending stumps | • Rubber |

I've included links to specific items that offer the best balance of price and quality based on our experience. Students do not need to bring these materials into school, but they will likely need them at home for coursework tasks. We will provide each student with a portfolio and a carry case for their artwork, so they do not need to purchase a sketchbook.

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Headteacher Mrs Roberta Harrison



Before the summer break, your child will receive a summer project designed to help them get to know and practise using all the equipment listed above. This will give them a strong, confident start to the course in September.

If you have any questions about the GCSE Art course, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I am more than happy to talk you through the expectations or support available.

"I found I could say things with colour and shapes that I couldn't say any other way – things I had no words for." Georgia O'Keeffe

Kind regards,
Mrs Finnemore
Head of Art
Harris School



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