

15th October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Art Coursework

I just wanted to write to keep you up to date with the progress of the GCSE Art Coursework Unit that your son/daughter is currently working on in lesson and at home.

They will need to complete their A2 boards & sketchbook and have an outcome produced by the last week of Term 2 before we finish for the Christmas break. At the end of term and after their mock exams, all work will be taken in and marked before being moderated in the summer.

This gives them only **6 weeks** after the half term break to complete their project. As you know this project is **worth 60% of their final grade**. The other 40% comes from their Externally Set Assessment which they will start at the beginning of Term 3.

It is imperative that your son/daughter feels that they are in a good position with regards to their coursework at this time and if not let their class teacher know as soon as possible. They may want to take some time over the next couple of weeks to make sure any outstanding work is completed before their mocks.

Below, is a plan of the kind of work which ought to have been completed already and has been discussed in class on numerous occasions.

We are suggesting that, as a rule (every project will differ slightly), they should have:

- 1) studied at least 3-4 artists to give them ideas and inspiration.
- 2) created at least 2 sets of photographs to work from to work from.
- 3) produced at least 8 A2 boards showing observations, arts and media experiments.
- 4) developed these pieces of work, using a variety of different materials and media they have learnt over their GCSE.
- 5) aimed to create designs and compositions for their final piece which we will be starting after the half term break, if they have not already done so.

Please could I ask for your support in encouraging your son/daughter to complete as much work as possible in the weeks leading up to the end of Term 2 and make sure they spend time during the half term break working on their project.

In Term 2 we will be focusing our class time on producing final outcomes for this coursework unit. Your son/daughter may also need to source any specific materials they may need (canvas, paints etc) over the next couple of weeks, if they haven't already done so.

It would also be wonderful if you went through their sketchbook/A2 boards with them in the next couple of weeks and discussed their ideas for an outcome for their coursework.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information on EObrien@stjohns.excalibur.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EO'Brien', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Miss E O'Brien
Head of Art and Design