Textiles

Examination Board: AQA
Qualification: A level (H604)
Teacher Contact: Miss Wells and Miss Pilsworth

Entry Requirements: You must have a flair for working with textiles and be proactive and innovative in your approach to design. You should have experience of sewing and ideally working with fashion, garments, textiles equipment and fabrics. This is a demanding and time-consuming course and you need to be prepared to do at least six hours of unsupervised work per week in addition to allocated lessons. If the subject has been studied at GCSE, at least a grade 6 is required and 7–9 grades at GCSE would be beneficial.

What will I study?

This course encourages you to take a broad view of fashion and textiles, to develop your ability to make innovative products and to learn skills of pattern-cutting and garment construction, to learn about creative approaches to design and build up an extensive fashion and textiles portfolio.

YEAR 1

The first part of the course is designed to broaden your skills and knowledge of textiles techniques through workshops and practical activities. You will produce practical work in the form of embroidery and stitching, adding surface pattern and decoration to fabric and fabric manipulation. You will also be improving your recording and presenting skills through using a sketchbook and developing your fashion drawing skills. You will look at the work of other fashion and textile designers and you will share your ideas with fellow students. You will receive feedback on this work but it will not form part of the formal assessment. This learning will prepare you for the personal investigation element of the course that you will start in the summer term.

During the first year you will be required to show your ability to work independently. You will choose a fashion/textile designer that links directly with your personal investigation and demonstrate your ability to research and develop your findings into an artist research board, which you will produce in a formal exam environment.

YEAR 2

Personal Investigation – 60% of the total A level
Summer Term – Year 1
You select your own theme and then develop your investigations in an ideas book before planning and creating a final piece. You will also submit a written analysis of an artist's work that connects with your practical theme.

Externally Set Task – 40% of the total A level
Pre-released material 1st January – Year 2
The examination board sends a set of themes in the form of an examination paper; you select one to work from. The question is explored through a series of ideas pages and experiments with materials and techniques; this work is usually done in an ideas book. The formal examination time in which the final piece is produced is 15 hours.

How will I be assessed?

Your teacher marks your work using four assessment objectives. The marks are checked by an Examination Board Moderator who comes to the school to look at an exhibition of the work and check that marking is in line with national standards.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

Most of the materials you need for this course will be provided but you will be encouraged to build your own supply. We will expect you to be resourceful and gather and collect things that may help you with your work.

Am I suited to this course?

You will be well suited to this course if you are:
– creative and interested in fashion and textiles
– keen to learn to develop your practical skills with pattern-cutting and garment construction
– keen to learn about printing and decorating fabrics.

What other subjects does it complement?

Fashion and textiles links well with all subjects as it encourages you to look at things in a much more analytical way. It complements subjects such as History, Art and Photography especially well.

Where can it lead?

This course prepares you to enter a variety of degree-level courses related to fashion, textiles and design by equipping you with the necessary skills and helping you to develop your portfolio, which is usually required at interviews. You could then pursue a career in fashion design, costume design, printed textiles, illustration or any other design or fashion-based career.