

Art and Design Diploma level 1

Course Overview

This course will allow you to experience a range of art, design and media techniques and gain a level 1 qualification in art and design. The programme encourages you to explore and enhance artistic and media skills, techniques, and knowledge giving you the opportunity to begin the development of an individual portfolio of art, media and design work. This is achieved through set projects exploring a number of different topics.

If you are aged 16-18, you will be enrolled on a study programme, which will include retaking GCSEs or undertaking Functional Skills in English and maths if you haven't already achieved a grade 4 or above. You will also be required to complete a work experience placement and an employability programme.

What you will learn

The course covers drawing and painting, 3D design, ceramics, textiles, mixed media, pattern and print, graphics, photography, producing craft items and art history. You will learn how to work safely within the workshops and gain the technical skills to be able to operate appropriate machinery safely. Maths and English will also be studied at an appropriate level.

Entry Requirements

Standard entry to this course requires one reference. It is desirable that you can demonstrate 90% attendance. A GCSE in English and Art grade 1/2 (E/F/G) or above is required. Maths is desirable but not essential.

A Portfolio of Artwork is required to review ability and provide guidance at interview. Consideration will be given to all applicants over the age of 19 who do not hold formal English and maths qualifications.

Course Fees

There is a potential trip fee of £20. This will be confirmed in year.

Course Progression

Successful completion of the level 1 Diploma in Art and Design can lead to progression to the BTEC level 2 Diploma in Art and Design, Media, Fashion or Graphic Design and Photography. It can also lead to junior-level work in an art/design or media related area or appropriate related apprenticeships.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website, or if your school uses the Positive Steps @16 (PS16) application system please apply through this and speak to your careers advisor if you are unsure. You will need details of your qualifications and employment history, a reference, and a personal statement to complete your application. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be sent a conditional offer and be invited to a Welcome Event at the College to meet your tutors, learn more about your chosen course of study and tour the facilities. You will then need to confirm your acceptance of the course offered to you.

Course Details

Course Code	P00044
Start Date	07/09/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	1 year
Campus	St Margaret's Campus
Level	1

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