

KS3 Art & Design Curriculum Map 2026-2027

Year Overview	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
KS3 Art & Design develops students' creativity, confidence and technical skills through a broad range of practical experiences. Students build upon prior learning each term, revisiting and extending their understanding of the formal elements, materials, techniques and creative processes. Artist and designer research is embedded throughout to provide inspiration, context and an understanding of how artists communicate ideas. Students increasingly develop independent thinking, experimentation and evaluation skills in preparation for GCSE Art & Design.	Autumn 1: Natural Forms Autumn 2: Textile Art	Spring 1: Fashion: Identity Through Fashion Spring 2: Metamorphosis	Summer 1: Jewellery: Meaning, Symbolism & Personal Adornment Summer 2: Young British Artists (YBAs) of the 1990s

Curriculum Area	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Knowledge Content	A1: Observational studies of natural forms, organic structures and patterns. A2: Textile traditions, contemporary textile artists and storytelling through textiles.	Sp1: Fashion as identity, culture and self-expression. Sp2: Transformation, change and growth through natural and imaginative sources.	Su1: Jewellery as symbolism, communication and personal identity. Su2: Contemporary art, conceptual thinking and the YBA movement.
Formal Elements	Line, shape, form, tone, texture, pattern and colour.	Colour, shape, form, texture, pattern, silhouette and composition.	Shape, form, space, texture, scale, contrast and visual impact.
Processes	Research, observation, recording, experimentation and refinement.	Investigation, design development, experimentation and communication.	Research, conceptual development, making, refining and presenting.
Vocabulary	Organic, contour, symmetry, asymmetry, texture, pattern, stitch, embroidery, appliqué, weaving.	Identity, culture, symbolism, silhouette, expression, transformation, evolution, metamorphosis.	Adornment, ornamentation, symbolism, conceptual, installation, assemblage, audience, narrative.
Links to Prior Learning	Builds on KS2 drawing, colour work, pattern and observational skills.	Extends recording, design development and artist research skills from Autumn Term.	Builds on experimentation, symbolism and independent thinking developed earlier in the year.

Skills and Developing Ideas	A1: Observational drawing and artist investigations. A2: Textile experimentation and personal responses.	Sp1: Mood boards, fashion concepts and identity studies. Sp2: Creative development exploring transformation and change.	Su1: Personal jewellery designs inspired by symbolism. Su2: Independent and conceptual responses inspired by contemporary artists.
Materials	Graphite, coloured pencils, fineliners, paint, fabric, thread, felt and mixed media.	Markers, collage materials, textiles, paint, acetate and digital imagery.	Wire, clay, recycled materials, found objects, photography and mixed media.
Techniques	Observational drawing, shading, colour blending, stitching, embroidery, appliqué and weaving.	Fashion illustration, collage, layering, image transfer and mixed-media processes.	Construction, modelling, assemblage, installation, photography and presentation techniques.
Skills of Evaluation	Analyse artwork, use subject vocabulary, reflect on strengths and respond to feedback.	Evaluate design intentions, annotate developments and justify creative decisions.	Critically evaluate ideas, processes and outcomes, considering audience and personal intentions.

Progression Through the Year

Natural Forms → Textile Art → Fashion → Metamorphosis → Jewellery → Young British Artists

Students progress from **observational and technical skills**, through **personal identity and creative exploration**, towards **independent, symbolic and conceptual thinking**, providing strong preparation for GCSE Art & Design.