

‘The Aspiring Art Scholar’

KS4/5



**CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL**

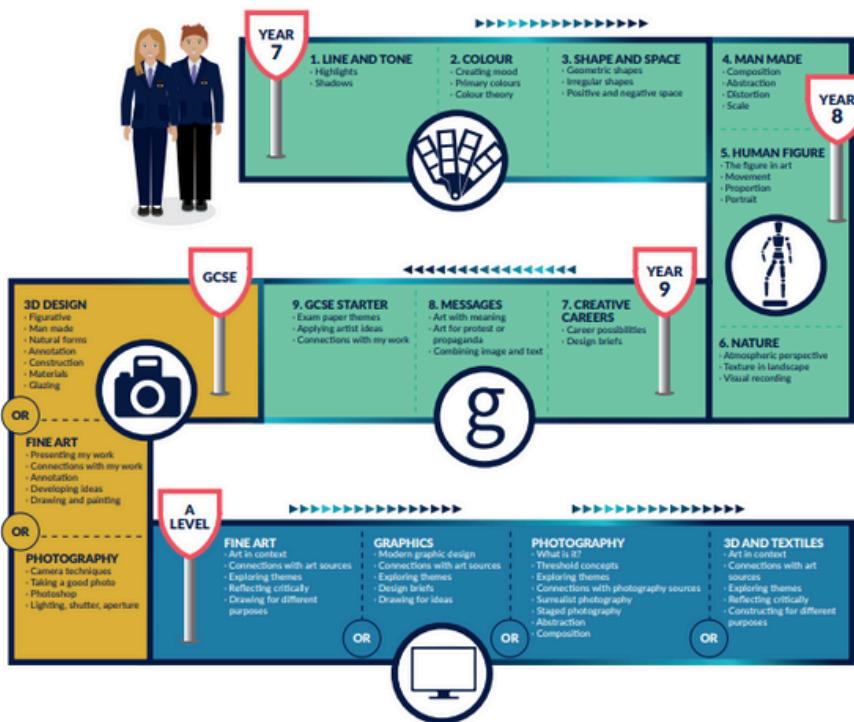


Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Art Scholar'



ART AND DESIGN



'The Aspiring Art Scholar'



Creative subjects such as Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography and 3D Design push you to take risks and explore processes and ideas which open up a high range of opportunities.

Arts subjects cross-relate and interlink with each other. Often there is no 'one right answer' or defined way to approach your presentation of your artistic vision, although all artists and creatives go through the process of looking at other artists or sources for inspiration, exploring techniques, recording ideas and presenting a personal response to their subject matter, design brief or chosen theme.

This Aspire Pathways document should give you some additional reference points and ideas, allowing you to dig deeper into the subject and become more articulate and successful in developing your own work.

You can also explore our A Level Arts Subjects Sharepoint Sites:

- [A Level Photography](#)
- [A Level Graphics](#)
- [A Level Fine Art](#)

Good luck!

Mr Taylor
Head of Art

Reading list



Ways of Seeing – John Berger

A classic. Short, essential, and brilliant for understanding how images communicate.

Steal Like an Artist – Austin Kleon

Inspires idea generation, originality, and creative practice.

Interaction of Colour – Josef Albers

A must-read for colour theory (useful for painting, digital work, and visual composition).

The Artist's Way – Julia Cameron

Helps cultivate creative habits and long-term productivity.

On Photography – Susan Sontag

Challenging but excellent for building intellectual depth in your photographic work.

Camera Lucida – Roland Barthes

A philosophical look at photography and meaning. Great for personal statement discussion.

Thinking with Type – Ellen Lupton

Great typography book for senior graphics students.

How to Use Graphic Design to Sell Things – Michael Bierut

Case studies from an industry-leading designer.

The Story of Art – E.H. Gombrich

Foundational and readable art history.

Inside the White Cube – Brian O'Doherty

A short read on how gallery space shapes meaning (excellent for installation/contextual studies).

The Elements of Drawing – John Ruskin

Still incredibly useful for developing fundamental drawing skills.

Competitions



[Young Artists' Summer Show | Royal Academy](#)

[Gloucestershire Young Photographer Competition | Cheltenham Camera Club](#)

[Children's Art Competitions in the UK 2025 | MoMa UK](#)

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



Talk Art

Hosted by Russell Tovey and gallerist Robert Diamant, Talk Art discusses trends in the contemporary art scene, interviews artists & curators, and explores collecting. It's informal, accessible & often based in the UK, so you get a good sense of both local and global art worlds.



The Lonely Palette

Hosted by Tamar Avishai, this is an art history podcast. Each episode picks a single artwork and explains its history, context, and meaning—making art more approachable for people who may not have formal training.



The Great Women Artists Podcast

Curator & art historian Katy Hessel hosts this show which shines a spotlight on female artists (historic and contemporary) who may often be underrepresented. It's both informative and inspiring, with careful research and interviews.



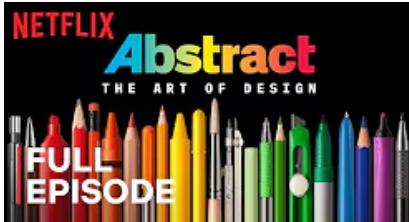
Design Matters

Hosted by Debbie Millman, this one sits at the intersection of design, art, storytelling and culture. She interviews designers, thinkers, authors, artists, etc. It gives you a broader view of how design and visual culture operate.

Listen and Watch



Films/YouTube/TV



Abstract - The Art of Design (YouTube)

The Genius of Photography (Daily Motion)

This is Modern Art (YouTube)

The Rules of Abstraction (BBC documentary)

Culture Show Special

1976: DAVID HOCKNEY on Hockney | The Book Programme | Classic Interviews | BBC Archive (Interview old BBC, classic Hockney talking about his influences and approach to drawing/painting).

Jean Michel Basquiat the Radiant Child (Great documentary overview of Basquiat's work and life)

How to Paint with Watercolour: Neal Tait (contemporary artist Neal Tait, interviewed by school kids, talks about ideation/surreal art)

Idea to Illustration: A Mixed-Media Demo (professional illustrator, real time demonstration~)

Listen and Watch



Social media



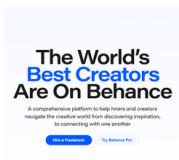
@DeviantArt

One of the largest online art communities where artists share digital art, traditional art, photography, and fan art. It has groups, critiques, and portfolio features for networking and exposure.



ArtStation

Popular among digital artists, concept artists, and game/film industry professionals. It focuses on high-quality portfolios, job opportunities, and inspiration from industry-standard work.



Behance (by Adobe)

A creative platform for showcasing portfolios across design, illustration, photography, motion graphics, and more. Great for professional visibility and connecting with clients.



@Dribbble

Known for design-focused content like UI/UX, branding, and illustration. It's widely used by designers to showcase work, get feedback, and find freelance or full-time opportunities.

Work Experience and Events



For art students, gaining work experience, visiting galleries, and seizing available opportunities are all essential steps in shaping both their creative and professional growth.

Work experience allows students to understand the practical aspects of the art world, from studio practices to exhibition management, and provides valuable insights into potential career paths.

Visiting galleries exposes students to a diverse range of artistic styles, techniques, and contemporary trends, inspiring their own work while deepening their critical understanding of art.

Actively engaging with opportunities such as workshops, internships, and competitions not only helps students build a strong portfolio but also fosters networking, collaboration, and visibility within the art community.

Together, these experiences equip art students with the skills, perspective, and connections necessary to navigate the evolving art landscape successfully.

Use your time wisely!

Mr Taylor
Head of Art



Work Experience and Events



Work Experience | The RSA

Work experience for motivated and curious students eager to gain hands-on experience in a dynamic and forward-thinking environment.



Work Experience Placements | RWA Bristol

We are proud to offer quarterly work experience placements to students from Year 10 through to university.



Work Experience | Museum in the Park

Opportunity to develop your understanding about an area of work within the heritage sector.



Work Experience | Corinium Museum

Corinium Museum has a few places each year available for work experience students. We offer three days where the student will experience the various departments of the museum. These spaces fill up very fast.



Home Projects | Nature in Art

During the Covid-19 lock down, Nature in Art couldn't run activities in person, the only option was to get creative at home! They now offer a selection of videos and flip books that you can use for inspiration for home art projects.



Early Careers Opportunities | V&A

Our work experience weeks are for young adults aged 16–19 years who want to explore career options at the V&A and the cultural sector.



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures.

Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)



