

## What can I do after this course?

This course is a strong foundation for further progression to Art and Design such as A-level Art and Design and enhanced vocational and career pathways in the Art and Design sector.

## For further information contact:

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**GCSE**  
**Art and Design**  
**Exam Board: AQA**



**DRONFIELD**  
**HENRY FANSHAWE**  
**SCHOOL**

*Established 1579*

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Subject Guide  
**Key Stage 4**

**GCSE**  
**Art and Design**

**Exam Board:**  
**AQA**

Course starting September 2026



## What will I learn?

GCSE Art and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature.

This two unit specification enables students to develop their ability to actively engage in the processes of Art and Design – to build creative skills through learning and doing, to develop imaginative and intuitive ways of working and develop knowledge and understanding of media, materials and technologies in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.

During the course our students develop personal attributes including self-confidence, resilience, perseverance, self discipline and commitment.

## How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Portfolio of work

This unit is worth 60% of the final award. Students will be given a selection of starting points for their portfolio e.g. mechanical forms and will base all their artwork around these themes. You will produce research, developmental studies and final pieces. The emphasis is on using your own creativity and imagination to produce a portfolio that is relevant to yourself and includes your own ideas and designs.

Unit 2: Set Task

This unit is worth 40% of the final award. During the final year of the course AQA will provide you with a choice of starting points, of which one must be chosen by yourself. You will base your project around this starting point and will produce research and developmental work. The conclusive piece of the project will be produced in 10 hours under exam conditions.

## How is this course delivered?

The course is delivered in three ways:

- Through practical skills based lessons which will help students gain new skills and techniques.
- Through encouraging independence and initiative in the students.
- Through whole class critiques where students will be given opportunities to comment on their own and others work.