

Course Level

BTEC National Extended Certificate

Awarding Body

Pearson Edexcel

Entry Requirements

TPS 36

Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art, Textiles or Graphics

Assessment

4 Units

Mandatory units

- 3 are mandatory
- 1 internally assessed
- 2 externally assessed

Optional Units

- Students must complete at least one from a list of optional units. The department at Birchwood High school will be delivering;
- Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes.

The BTEC National Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level.

Course Description

The BTEC National Extended Certificate in Art and Design provides learners the opportunity to develop art and design projects and gain an understanding of the creative process. They study visual recording and communication, critical analysis and production skills to produce art and design outcomes.

Unit 1 Visual Recording and Communication

In this unit, students will develop their visual recording and communication skills through exploration and experimentation with materials and methods, gaining confidence in their ability to create work and express and communicate ideas. Students will extend their skills through exploring the work of others, ongoing personal reflection and the refinement of their own work. They will demonstrate their practice by applying these skills to a set task.

This unit is assessed under supervised conditions. Learners will be provided with a theme and a task in January from the exam board before a supervised assessment period in order to carry out research and preparatory work and prepare a response. The supervised assessment period is a maximum of three hours where learners will compile their work and respond to a set task.

Unit 2 Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design

In this unit, students will develop contextual research and critical analysis skills. They will investigate the contextual influences on practitioners that drive and underpin their work. They will learn how to critically analyse pieces of art and design work, deconstructing images and thinking critically about what they see. Students will develop these skills through investigation by selecting and sourcing relevant information in order to gain a full understanding of the work of artists and designers.

This unit is assessed under supervised conditions. Learners will be provided with a research brief and a task from the exam board before a supervised assessment period and given five weeks in order to prepare their response. Pearson Edexcel sets and marks the task. The supervised assessment period is a maximum of five hours and can be arranged over a number of sessions. During the supervised assessment period, learners will produce a written response to the task.

Unit 3 The Creative Process.

In this unit, Students will explore the activities within the creative process. They will experiment with ideas generation techniques and contextual research activities. They will develop ideas through use of materials, techniques and processes, refining their ideas and reviewing their working practices. Students will explore ways to present their work and understand the importance of self-reflection and evaluation as an ongoing process. They will also explore how these activities can relate and support each other, looking at alternative and innovative approaches. They will then apply their own creative process to a piece of art and design work, reflecting on what they have learned to help inform their future practice. In this unit they will draw on their learning from across your programme to complete assessment tasks.

Unit 4 Optional choice– Unit 12 Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes.

In this unit students will develop their Fine Art skills exploring a wide range of techniques as required and based on strengths and available resources within the department.

Special Requirements

The course requires an enthusiasm for the Visual Arts, imagination and an enquiring mind. Students are encouraged to express their own artistic identity, and are expected to work with a high degree of independence and creativity, taking creative risks and exploring their own interests. There is a distinct step up from GCSE in terms of content and skills to study art and design at BTEC level.

Students will be required to make frequent trips to museums and galleries making links between their own work and that of relevant professional artists and to record first-hand information using sketchbooks and cameras. Students are expected to commit to five hours a week working independently on their coursework. This may include making visits and time spent in the department developing coursework. All work submitted will be marked by the course teacher and moderated by the examining board.

Career and Progression Opportunities

With a qualification in Art students could go on to higher education, Art Foundation or work in the Art industry. This could include a career in Graphic Design, Product Design, Fashion, Textiles, Ceramics, Glass, Theatre Design, Animation, Computer Aided Design, Architecture, Furniture Design, 3D Design, Digital Media, Fine Art, Photography, Advertising, Interior Design, Prop and set design and many more.