



St Dominic's
Sixth Form College

A LEVEL ART & DESIGN

PORTFOLIO GUIDANCE

If you have not studied Art and Design at GCSE, you will be asked to prepare a portfolio of work which will be reviewed by our Head of Art and teaching team.

Your portfolio should be ready to be presented at enrolment. Please use the information below to inform your portfolio.

DRAWING FROM PRIMARY SOURCES

Drawings from primary sources should be the main focus of your portfolio. These are really important and will help us to assess your **level of skill** and **ability**. It is really important that these drawing are taken **from life** (and not photographs). The focus of your primary sourced drawings can be anything (!) – but they should demonstrate an area of interest. For example – still life, figures, land/cityscapes etc.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORK OF OTHERS

We are also keen to see **evidence of an awareness of historical and contemporary artists and their work**. This could be in the form of a short analysis of an artist's work, discussing the meaning of the art work, any use of symbolism, the context within which it was created, the use of formal elements (what kind of lines, tones, shapes, colours, etc), how it makes you feel, etc.

WHAT IS A PORTFOLIO?

A PORTFOLIO IS AN EDITED COLLECTION OF AN ARTIST'S BEST ARTWORK AND DOCUMENTATION OF THEIR PROCESS.

ESSENTIALLY, IT IS TO SHOWCASE THEIR STYLE OR METHOD OF WORK.

You are encouraged to use a **range of media**, explore different scales and drawing techniques/ approaches to really showcase your craft and 'making' skills. These could take any form – printing, textiles, photography, digital art, 3D art etc.



FINALLY... please note that we do not need to see copies of artist's work, cartoons or manga style art. These are not appropriate for the A Level Art and Design course. You do not need to present your work in any particular format – a sketch book will suffice. **GOOD LUCK!**