

BTEC ART & DESIGN

First certificate & First Diploma
(Double Award)

Course co-ordinator:
Ms N Powys

What is BTEC art and design?

A BTEC was originally a qualification gained in business or technology (hence the name) but has now evolved into a highly respected and credible alternative qualification to GCSEs, A-levels and beyond. BTEC courses are *vocationally* based. This means that projects are designed to work just like real projects tackled by companies and professionals. In the BTEC Art and Design course pupils get the chance to experience their learning working alongside practicing artists and designers. The course is designed to equip pupils with the skills and experience required for the working sector.



What sort of projects will I be doing?

The projects set will offer exciting and relevant skills based work. This will enable pupils to build up a broad portfolio of art in a variety of modern and more traditional techniques.

Projects briefs under development for next year include:

- Design a brochure for a local environmental group
- Make an animated short film to help young children to read,
- Create a range of textiles for the home using Fair Trade-sourced and sustainable fabrics,
- Produce a sculpture based on Anthony Gormley's "Angel of the North" for the Smart Life Centre, Cambridge, using re-cycled materials.

Within these topics pupils will be able to specialise in their own methods of working to produce individual responses.



How does BTEC Art & Design compare to GCSE?

Pupils gaining a pass in the BTEC First Diploma are credited by colleges and employers as having the equivalent of 4 GCSE grades at C or above. Pupils achieving Merits and Distinction gain the equivalent of 4 GCSEs at grade B or A. Therefore the BTEC Art and Design course is an interesting option both for ambitious high achievers wishing to follow their interests in art while picking up the equivalent of 4 GCSEs as well as those keen on the subject who may struggle to achieve the grades they want in other subject areas.

What is the difference between the BTEC First Certificate and the BTEC First Diploma and how will this work?

In Year 10 pupils will take the BTEC *First Certificate* in Art and Design. A pass gained in this qualification is worth the equivalent of **2 GCSEs** at C or above (more for a merit or distinction).

In Year 11 further units will be taken to extend this qualification to the *First Diploma* worth **4 GCSEs** as described in the previous section.

At the end of Year 10 pupils will have the option of moving up to the Diploma or spending further time on the Certificate. Pupils need to be enthusiastic and self-motivated to succeed in the world of work. This course delivers an exciting and challenging option for creative 14-16 year olds, building practical skills and developing self confidence.



Further information on the BTEC Firsts in Art and Design can be found at:
<http://www.edexcel.org.uk/quals/first/art>