KS5 | Curriculum
Textiles

THE WALDERSLADE & GREENACRE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Qualification type / Exam Board

A-Level / AQA

What will I learn about?

In Textile Design, you will explore the artistic and functional potential of textiles and fabric-based materials through various techniques, including:

- **Surface Decoration**: Learn techniques such as embroidery, appliqué, printing, and dyeing to enhance fabric surfaces.
- **Fashion and Costume Design**: Explore garment construction, pattern cutting, and textile design for fashion or theatrical purposes.
- **Constructed Textiles**: Experiment with weaving, knitting, or felting to create textile-based art or products.
- **Digital Textiles**: Use digital technology such as laser cutting and fabric printing to explore contemporary textile design.
- **Critical Analysis**: Study the work of both traditional and contemporary textile artists, designers, and fashion houses to inform your own practice.

The course focuses on both technical skills and creative exploration, allowing you to create innovative textile outcomes. Your personal portfolio will reflect your experimentation and technical development across various textile processes.

How is my work assessed?

- **Component 1: Personal Investigation (60%)**
  Develop a portfolio of textile work based on a self-directed project, including:
  - **Practical work**: A collection of textile samples, designs, and final pieces responding to a chosen theme or subject.
  - **Written study**: A contextual study (1000–3000 words) analysing the connections between your practical work and relevant artists or textile designers.
- **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)**
  Choose from one of the eight starting points provided by AQA and develop preparatory work, culminating in a final textile piece created during a 15-hour supervised assessment.

What should I consider before starting this subject?

Before starting A-Level Textile Design, consider:

- **Creative exploration**: A passion for working with fabric and a desire to explore a range of textile techniques.
- **Attention to detail**: Precision and craftsmanship are essential, whether designing garments or creating textile art.
- **Independent working**: Much of the course is project-based, requiring strong self-motivation and the ability to manage time effectively.

Why is this course useful and what might it lead to?

A-Level Textile Design offers a pathway to:

- **Further study**: Degrees in Fashion Design, Textile Design, Costume Design, Surface Pattern Design, or Textile Art.
- **Careers**: Opportunities in fashion design, interior design, fabric production, costume design for theatre and film, and freelance textile art.

Entry requirements

A minimum of grade 5, or equivalent, in a Visual Arts subject; Fine Art, Graphics, Photography or Textiles

Where can I find more information?

Speak to your Textiles teacher or visit the AQA Textile Design A-Level specification for detailed information about the course structure and assessment.