KS5 | Curriculum
Graphics

THE WALDERSLADE & GREENACRE SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Qualification type / Exam Board

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Art and Design / Pearson

What will I learn about?

In Graphics, you'll explore how designers use words and images to communicate with a particular audience.

- **Typography and layout**: Experiment with typefaces, colour, scale and spacing to guide the reader's eye.
- **Image-making**: Combine drawing, collage and print with digital tools such as Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.
- **Design for different formats**: Test how an idea works on a printed page, a folded carton or a storyboard for an animation.
- **Design research**: Explore what influenced other designers. Use your findings to sketch alternatives and refine your own ideas.

How is my work assessed?

Pearson sets and marks Units 1 and 2, which account for 58% of guided learning hours. Your teachers assess Units 3 and 10, which account for the remaining 42%.

- **Unit 1: Visual Recording and Communication**
  Develop visual research and a finished piece in response to a set theme. Write a commentary explaining your choices in up to three supervised hours.
- **Unit 2: Critical and Contextual Studies in Art and Design**
  Research artists and designers for a brief issued four weeks in advance. You have three hours of monitored preparation and 3½ hours to write your supervised response.
- **Unit 3: The Creative Process**
  Take a design from initial sketches to a finished piece. Show how testing ideas and acting on feedback shaped the outcome.
- **Unit 10: Graphics Materials, Techniques and Processes**
  Try different materials and techniques for a brief such as a book cover. Present your design and explain how well it meets the brief.

What should I consider before starting this subject?

This course suits you if you enjoy working by hand and on screen. Be ready to keep a sketchbook or digital portfolio, explain why you changed a design and work independently between lessons to meet deadlines.

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

BTEC Graphic Design provides valuable skills for further study and careers in the creative industries.

- **Further study**: Alongside other Level 3 qualifications, your portfolio can support applications for degrees in Graphic Design, Illustration or Visual Communication.
- **Careers**: You could pursue a creative apprenticeship or work towards a career in branding, packaging design or publishing.

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 Graphics teacher or explore Pearson's Art and Design course overview and Extended Certificate specification.