

Q	Am I suitable?
A	If you like Art and it is something you feel you enjoy doing then yes! Throughout the course we dedicate time to improving your technical and written skills. We explore different materials, techniques and processes; the course is about finding out about what suits you. Not everyone will be the best at painting, but you may find a skill in drawing or printing. If you are prepared to give different materials and processes a try and explore techniques, you will do well.
Q	Does the course take a lot of my time?
A	We set about 1-2 hours of homework a week and students that keep up with this make very good progress. Most students say that if they do their homework and work well each lesson they can keep up with the course work. Many of our students do more in their own time as they enjoy the work and are pleased to see their progress develop.
Q	How is the GCSE marked?
A	The Edexcel Fine Art GCSE is 60% course work and 40% external exam. Both are marked in the same way by your teachers, who are your examiners and who are rigorously trained by Edexcel. The course work lasts until February of Year 11. At the end of Year 11, we mark and display your work for a visiting moderator who comes and sees the exhibition. The moderator will agree or disagree with the grades we have given. For the last 5 years we have been 100% accurate in our marking at Bourne Grammar School.
Q	I'm not planning on taking GCSE Fine Art, can I study Fine Art for A Level?
	At Bourne Grammar School if you would like to study Fine Art later on for A Level, you will need to have a Level 6 in GCSE Fine Art or Distinction in BTEC Art and Design to be accepted on the course.
Q	Do I have to know a lot about artists and Art History?
A	We will be teaching you about different artists and using their work to explore techniques and processes. If there is a certain period of Art you enjoy then you can explore that too. We try to inform you as much as possible about different types of Art so you are better informed about the subject. As part of the GCSE you will be required to write about artists, which we help you to do.
Q	Should I only be the best at Art to take GCSE Fine Art?
A	We have a range of students who all differ in their ability and all make good progress throughout the GCSE. The ability to draw and paint well from observation is important but as the GCSE is marked in different areas, it allows students to excel in many ways. For example, how you develop an idea or material or the photography you use to develop your research - all of these areas are just as important and recognised by the exam board in what makes a good artist.
Q	What skills will I develop on the course?
A	Many of our students have said that after the GCSE they are much more organised and better at time management for taking the subject. Students continuing their Fine Art education at A-Level report they are more independent too. Many of the themes students research for their GCSE also give them a good understanding of what is happening in the world around them - we have students who explore themes such as identity and gender, the environment or animal cruelty. The course aims to give you a voice to research projects that are important to you. Students seem much more confident, able to discuss issues and form arguments in essay writing through our development of critical and analytical skills.

Q	Will I be able to do sculpture, ceramics, textiles, fashion etc.?
A	At Bourne Grammar School we offer the Fine Art GCSE as we work from two art rooms. This means that we are unable to offer lessons in sculpture, textiles or ceramics as we haven't the space to store work. However, if individual students want to explore sewing, textiles or mixed media pieces as part of their ideas they are encouraged to do so. The Fine Art GCSE has enabled students in Year 13 achieving places on degree courses in Textiles, Fashion, Film Making, Graphic Design and Illustration.
Q	I'm a keen photographer, can I complete a project using just my photographs?
A	The exam board want to see a range of work from you, so limiting the course work to just one material - whether that is painting, drawing or photography, would not show enough skill. We use photography a lot in our books and encourage you to take your own images whenever you can, as a work of art in their own right or to document and help you develop ideas.
Q	Will I have to buy a lot of equipment?
A	All the materials in the art rooms are free to use for all our students and each year we provide high quality A3 books for our GCSE Fine Art students, which are used to display your coursework. We encourage you to buy your own equipment to use at home and currently we sell a GCSE Art pack (approx £35) which has the same high-quality equipment we use in school. However, you are always welcome to borrow resources from the Department.
Q	I've heard the Art exam is ten hours, how can I work for so long?
A	The Art exam lasts for two school days and runs the same as a normal day, with break and lunch. Students work on a final piece at the end of Year 11 that summarises their research and so this is on a larger scale, often A2, and requires detail and concentration. Most students feel that the time is not long enough by the time they get to this point! We help you to plan and prepare for this exam and students have reported really enjoying this time as they can take pride in what they do. You may have seen many of these final pieces in the Art Department, they are truly stunning and an excellent example of what can be achieved.
Q	How many classes are there each week and who will teach me?
A	There are 5 lessons dedicated to Art over the two-week timetable and you will either be taught by Mrs Welling, Miss Mafusire or Miss Wright. Your teacher will be your examiner. The Art rooms are open most lunchtimes and after school if you prefer working practically during the school day. You teachers work together to check each student across both classes and as a team it is our job to ensure you all make the best progress.
Q	Which careers can doing GCSE Fine Art lead to?
A	Fine Art is recognised as an excellent subject to take at GCSE and A-Level and many of our students have gone on to study a range of different subjects at degree level. Popular careers with Art are - Animator, Architect, Art Historian, Art Therapist, Conservator, Curator, Fashion Designer, Film Maker, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Photographer, Product Designer, Set Designer, Textile Designer, Web Designer and Writer. Some of our students take A-Level Fine Art just because they enjoy the subject so much and then go on to study an arts based courses at universities such as St Andrews, Nottingham University, Leeds University and University of the Arts, London (Central St Martins and Chelsea School of Art).
Q	Does everything we produce contribute to the overall grade?

A	The exam board suggests that students present a range of work for examination and so we encourage students to present work neatly in their A3 books to show development of ideas and research, so yes! However, we work with you to encourage you to develop your work and our written and verbal feedback will help you to improve your skills. As your examiners, everything we ask you to present is to help you get the best grade for you.
Q	Do I have to sit a written exam?
A	No, assessment is over time for the coursework and for the external exam you are given a duration of 3 months to prepare for the 10-hour exam which is practical. You are expected to write in your book, to annotate your ideas and analyse the work of artists, but no written exam on Art History is required.
Q	Can I just do what I want?
A	There is a lot of freedom in the choice of theme you study when we start the coursework and we encourage you to develop your own ideas, but it is important that you meet the Assessment Objectives given to us from the exam board, so completing set tasks and building evidence of these in your book is important. You would not show enough progress or variety if you drew cartoons for the whole two years! We guide you through the GCSE to ensure each Objective is met fully.