

Fine Art

The best ways to prepare for A-Level Art, Craft and Design, Fine Art Pathway are to develop your observational and photography skills and to be inspired by other creatives.

You can do this by setting up a still life in your home and making a series of studies using a variety of drawn media. Try out different lighting using lamps or natural light. How does this change the tones and textures? Work on composition, detail, tone and texture.

Carry a small sketchbook on outings, use train journeys to make sketches from observation. This will help develop your skills, it's important to keep drawing to maintain your level.

Take regular photographs of objects, landscapes, architecture or people that interest you. Experiment with composition, close ups, wide angle and lighting as you progress. Look at professional photography that you like and note the techniques that they use. Can you respond in your own photographs?

Visiting art galleries and museums is a really good way to be inspired. Seeing art work in person is a completely different experience to viewing it on line. Look at a range of art work and notice the techniques, subject matter, mark making and ideas behind the work. Take photographs, pick up postcards and make a small book of your favourite pieces. Make brief notes about the work, you can refer to it in the future.

Local Galleries you can visit:

Ikon Gallery – Birmingham.

Wolverhampton Art Gallery – This has a great pop art collection and a range of traditional and contemporary work on display.

Walsall Art Gallery – A fantastic permanent collection with a range of contemporary exhibitions.

Further afield:

Tate gallery – London

National Gallery – London

V and A museum – London.