A Level Art - Textiles



AS and A Level Textiles at Peter Symonds is a dynamic, creative and exciting subject to study. You may have studied Textiles/Fashion or Art at GCSE but the only essential requirement is your creative enthusiasm and commitment.

If you choose not to continue this subject onto year two, you are able to sit an AS exam at the end of year one.

Who is this course for?

Our Textiles course is for those who have a love of Art, Fashion or Textiles and want to explore their creativity. Textiles is taught in the Art Department and the AS qualification prepares students to carry on to A level and then further Art/Fashion related degree courses such as Fine Art Fashion Design, Printed and Constructed Textiles or - Art and Design History. Other students go on to study Fashion Journalism, Fashion Buying/Marketing/Promotion, Fashion Styling, Colour and Trend prediction, Interior Design and Architecture. In previous years our students have gained places on prestigious courses.

Course Content

We follow an art based approach to Textiles, Fashion and Design. The scope of the course is broad and taught by enthusiastic and supportive staff. The aim is to develop your artistic and design skills by exploring the use of textile processes and materials to create a portfolio of expressive and experimental work. You will be taught to look at the world around you for inspiration using photography and drawing to start your investigations. You are encouraged to explore the work of other inspirational and contemporary Artists, Photographers, Designers and historical influences from different cultures around the world.

Your AS year will be a stimulating and exciting time. During the first phase of the course you will work on set projects encouraging you to experiment with a large variety of techniques including free machine embroidery, using alternative materials, surface pattern, textiles. print, and constructed



In the second phase you will extend this experience by completing an Externally Set Assignment/ Project. Your work will build into a portfolio reflecting your own personal style and interests. During the year we offer trips to galleries and museums to enhance your study.

Year 2

In your A level year the course enables you to develop your own interests and individual expertise through a bespoke project tailored to you. This allows you time to create more ambitious garments/outfits or art works. There is a written element to this part of the course. This is followed finally by the Externally Set Assignment project. This work along with that from AS will provide you with a portfolio suitable for Foundation or Degree level applications. We will organise trips to inspire you and in recent years Textiles students have also had the opportunity to be part of the Art Department trip to New York.

Art - Textiles

Equipment and Resources

We have a dedicated and fully equipped light and airy Textile studio stocked with Bernina sewing machines, Embellishing machines and all the resources you will need. You will have further access to the Fine Art, Photography, Sculpture and Print studios. The Textiles department produces a pack of useful equipment that you will be required to purchase at the beginning of the first term.

A sewing machine at home is an advantage especially one that can do free machine embroidery. Access to a digital camera would also be helpful.

Subject Combinations

It is possible to combine the AS/A Textiles course with either AS/A Fine Art, Photography, Sculpture or Graphics but as some of the deadlines can be the same you will need to be well organised.

If you require any further information about studying Textiles at Peter Symonds please do not hesitate to contact us on 01962 857500 and have a chat with one of the members of teaching staff.

Where will it take me?

This course is ideal for students wishing to build a portfolio for fashion, printed and contrasted textiles or alternatively Fine Art / Textiles Art. Others have used it as a springboard for related degrees such as marketing / buying / promotion, product design, interior design and architecture or to progress to Art foundation

Minimum Entry Requirements

5 GCSEs at grades A* - C including English and Maths.