

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **A Level Textile Design.**

**Question:** What are some of the key topics I would cover?

**Answer:** This is a specialist A Level; in the first year all students learn the key disciplines within Textiles including constructed textiles, dyed, printed textiles, fashion toiles, pattern making, garment construction, use of sewing machine, hand and machine embroidery. Students can later choose to specialise in Textiles, Fine Art Textiles, Fashion, Fashion Promotion or Interior Design. The course encompasses traditional handcrafts and computer-aided technology. Students are supported and encouraged as independent learners, developing an artistic and personal professionalism towards their studies and possible future careers in design.

**Question:** How many other subjects can I choose alongside this one?

**Answer:** Those students with a serious interest in the subject, may also take a specialist A Level in either Contemporary Fine Art, Graphic Communication or Photography alongside this course. This considerably strengthens their portfolio of work for entry straight to degree. Media and Business Studies are also popular alongside this career orientated course.

**Question:** What is the learning style like within this subject?

**Answer:** The units require students to take a dynamic personal approach to project work through the development of a variety of skills. These include investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, as well as aesthetic understanding and critical judgement. Each piece of work builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills gained from the last; this helps students' work to progress naturally in complexity, maturity and individuality.

Students are guided through the course by a range of learning experiences:

- one to one tutorials to review progress and set individual targets.
- group presentations to discuss homework, research and approaches.
- studio based skills sessions.
- personal research and study.
- gallery visits, lectures, slide and video presentations.

**Question:** How will I be assessed?

**Answer:** The course is 60% coursework and 40% examination. The coursework starts with a trip to inspire the design process. Your work is assessed across 4 Assessment Objectives which cover both the development of ideas, experimenting with materials, developing your recording skills across traditional and non-traditional processes and final outcomes. Each area is rewarded equally to recognise the full creative process, most of which is documented in a series of challenging sketchbooks.

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**Question:** What support can I access if I am struggling?

**Answer:** We have a Personal Study studio where students can use all the facilities in the department; including Textiles equipment, sewing machines, PCs, Photoshop, colour printer to continue with their classwork, personal study, homework or portfolio preparation during their free periods or lunchtimes. We run workshops for those students needing additional support at different periods of the week and bookable 1-1 help with the Head of Art. We are usually open 1 evening/week after college until 6pm.

**Question:** Are there any subject specific entry requirements?

**Answer:** Yes, please refer to the prospectus [here](#) for general and subject specific entry requirements. We require Grade 4 or above in GCSE Art & Design or Textiles for this specialist course.

**Question:** Are there normally any trips that I can go on?

**Answer:** Trips can vary during the year from local photographic research in Brighton, Pallant House in Chichester to London exhibitions at the V&A, Fashion & Textiles Museum. We also frequently visit the Fashion & Textiles degree shows from National universities at New Designers at The Islington Design Centre.

**Question:** What do students who have studied this area normally do after Collyer's?

**Answer:** The course also features an integral careers program, which can include work placement opportunities and live briefs within these subject specific areas. This year we had 2 opportunities for work placements at Dior and Burberry; one student also gained a prestigious Leather Apprenticeship with Rolls Royce after completing her A Level in Textiles.

We are uniquely placed within the fashion industry with ex-students holding positions within prominent organisations; for example Burberry, Glyndebourne Opera House, Paul Smith, Warner Brothers and several with their own creative companies.

Typically, we send 90% of our A Level Textiles cohort to specialist Arts Degrees and Foundation courses at Universities including Central St Martins, London College of Fashion, Bath Spa, Falmouth, Bournemouth, UCA Rochester, Epsom.