

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the Arts Faculty, I am delighted to welcome you to the new academic year. We hope your student is settling well into college life and finding this time of transition both exciting and rewarding.

This letter is being sent to all families with students enrolled within the Arts Faculty. Its purpose is to share the core information and expectations discussed during the induction lessons so that we can work together to support your student's success.

Please use the links below to navigate directly to the subjects relevant to your student.

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Kind regards,

Laurie Huggett-Wilde

Director of Faculty – Arts

Art & Design (Triple)	Back
What will they be doing in class? We will be introducing students to Unit 4 Materials Techniques and Processes covering core skills, such as formal elements and composition. The aim is to build upon existing skills brought from their GCSE experience. For this unit, students will explore the theme of ‘Altered Image’. We will be investigating a range of disciplines such as drawing, printmaking, photography (traditional and non-traditional), graphic communication, 3D modelmaking, painting, mixed media, textiles and craft. This initial unit will help prepare them for a further two units: - Graphic Materials Techniques and Processes and - Fine Art Materials Techniques and Processes. All topics will be reflective of contemporary art practice, and students will be taught how to analyse art forms using a rich vocabulary. We will address professional standards recognised in the creative arts industries, such as studio practice, presentation techniques, and health and safety to encourage all students to become effective managers of their own art practice.	
This term students may notice a larger breadth of materials techniques and processes than previously covered at GCSE. The variety and pace of skills covered will be vastly superior to their current experience. They will have the opportunity to develop greater refinement in mastering techniques, whilst introduction to Adobe Creative Suite will enable them to start working with industry-standard software. There is an expectation for students to approach all disciplines with a sense of risk-taking and resist perfection. We encourage students to have an open-minded approach and enjoy experimentation, whilst reflecting on how to accelerate their work to meet their true potential.	
Independent study this term: Each week we will ask students to complete both a practical and a critical and contextual written task. Students should allocate 12 hours to their independent study. We ask them to make full use of the studio facilities or complete the work at home. They might be surprised to find the tasks more superior and in depth compared to what they experienced at school.	
Pro-study this term: Quizzes and tasks will be used to help students in their understanding of metacognition in their study approaches. We involve students in a range of elements that address creative thinking. Students will need to be proactive in assessing their work as it progresses so written annotation to reflect on progress outside the classroom is fundamental to success in the coursework. They will also establish visual interest through research across many recommended arts-based websites.	
Next assessment(s): Feedback is given weekly through Teams chat on written analysis. Two formative grades to suggest performance level will be added to My Progress Mark book in the first half term, (Pass, Merit, Distinction), before students move onto brief in October, ahead of Progress Review 1. Students will be issued their first assignment brief at October half term with first submission in November.	
Further links:	Other reminders: Students should purchase the BTEC Art Kit to help them complete their studies with quality products. Proposed Trip to London Galleries – students will be issued a letter closer to the event.

Contemporary Fine Art	Back
During the Autumn Induction term for Fine Art, students will explore a wide array of materials, techniques and processes, including dry-point etching, reductive lino, acrylic painting and clothed life-drawing. The focus will be on quickly building confidence in a broad set of skills necessary for advanced work. This will be enhanced by studying the practices of various contemporary artists, guiding students towards their A Level coursework unit starting in January. Our SharePoint site includes all lessons, homework and Pro Study assignments with exemplar examples. It also contains PowerPoints, videos and visual aids used in class to support personal study. Additionally, it provides details of our wider Arts curriculum, competitions and careers within the Arts. There is also a Boost section with further reading, videos, seminars and conferences for students to enrich their studies in this subject.	
This term students may notice the rapid pace and difficulty of A Level work. Induction tasks will focus on honing advanced practical skills, disciplined creativity and efficient craft techniques. Emphasis will be placed on book craft skills for personal study tasks and developing individual styles in sketchbooks. While students may not enjoy every process introduced, they are expected to fully engage with each medium to make informed decisions about their future work for coursework.	
Independent study this term: Students are required to complete weekly sketchbook assignments for group critiques every Monday. This involves 5 hours of work, usually combining contemporary artist research and personal reflective responses. The media for these assignments is open, allowing students to explore their own personal preferences. During Personal Study lessons, the dedicated Open Studio D103 is open from 8am-4.30pm fully equipped with all media and PCs. Students seeking to learn new processes or needing help with homework can attend workshops led by the Head of Art, also signposted on each studio door or gain help from our experienced technicians.	
Pro-study this term: For Pro-study this term, students must write a 200-word blog entry each week based on a 4-minute Tate Shot video featuring contemporary artists discussing their work. This blog allows students to make personal judgments and observations without the constraints of specialist vocabulary used in formal critical analysis, fostering their creative metacognition and broadening their perception of what Fine Art can look like. It is an essential contribution to the written content in their coursework.	
Next assessment(s): Each weekly independent study is assessed A*-E grade. Final assessment of the Induction Term will take place in January; this includes their dry-point etchings, lino prints, acrylic self-portrait, Induction book craft and Pro study Blog. This assessment will be a significant part of the Year 1 Transfer Exam in Fine Art later in the academic year.	
Further links:	Other reminders: Students will need to purchase their equipment bundle pack of £40 on My Progress Shop at the start of the year, see letter given to students with details. Adobe Photoshop/Fresco accounts will be allocated to each student through their college email account.

Dance	Back
What will they be doing in class? Students will be introduced to the AQA A Level Dance qualification. They will be spending the term practical working on conditioning and technique to develop the fundamental dance skills, learning about the choreographic processes, as well as working on their first solo performance course element focusing on the practitioner Christopher Bruce. In addition, students will be learning about Rambert Dance Company and the works of Christopher Bruce in preparation for further study of this area as they progress throughout the course.	
What will they be doing outside of lessons? As part of their further learning to develop their knowledge and understanding students will be set homework associated with what they have been learning within lessons, from physical skills worksheets, to watching and analysing professional dance works. There is also an opportunity for students to participate in enrichment on offer in dance, such as Conditioning and Technique, Dance Society and auditioning for the dance company New Ground.	
Independent study this term: Students will be expected to write up their class notes to assist with revision. They will also be set homework on a weekly basis via Teams.	
Pro-study this term: Students will be set Pro-Study bi-weekly through a Teams assignment where they will be set work to develop their critical appreciation further, through reading online articles to watching online interview. Students will be expected to create notes or mind maps of their Pro-Study and submit through the Teams assignment.	
Next assessment(s):	
Further links:	Other reminders: Enrichment – Conditioning & technique, & New Ground Dance Company Dance Society – student led Resources taught in lesson will be available on SharePoint and Teams. Please feel free to contact Head of Subject – Amy Coughlan – ayc@collyers.ac.uk

Drama & Theatre Studies	Back
What will they be doing in class? This term, we have a range of exciting activities lined up for you. You'll learn how to analyse live theatre, explore the influential practitioner Howard Barker, get valuable careers advice, and delve into the techniques of Stanislavski. Our activities include inductions, group building exercises, essay writing on Barker and live theatre, as well as rehearsing and performing scenes from Barker's plays.	
What will they be doing outside of lessons? Engage in live theatre study: Explore recorded performances on Digital Theatre Plus, critically analysing the decisions made by actors, directors and designers. Discover new perspectives through a residential trip aimed at deepening understanding. Participate in rehearsals for the Barker performance, focusing on perfecting character accents and gestures. Develop comprehensive revision notes and flashcards for Written Exam 1 and 2. Utilise past papers and teacher feedback to enhance exam preparation. Seek personalised assistance as needed.	
What should you expect to see them doing at home? First, you'll get to write a 1,500-word essay on the renowned playwright, Howard Barker. We'll also ask you to write a live theatre review of your choice. Exciting, right? Don't worry, we'll guide you through the process. Additionally, we highly encourage you to attend some live theatre shows this term. Join our organised trip or go independently - the choice is yours!	
Next Term's assessment(s): Next Term will be mock essays on Othello and Amadeus (1,000 words each).	
Further links:	Other reminders: • On SHAREPOINT the focus will be the resources under the YEAR ONE tab. • Please feel free to email the Head of Subject – Neil Kendall nk@collyers.ac.uk

English Literature	Back
This term in English Lit we will be introducing the tragic genre to students, studying the play <i>Othello</i> by William Shakespeare and the poetry of John Keats. While many students will have already been introduced to tragedy through their GCSE study of Shakespeare, the step-up to A level English is a significant one, so we will be supporting our students in understanding the expectations of the course and their assessment objectives. After completing two Keats poems, students will begin studying the play <i>Death of a Salesman</i> by Arthur Miller.	
This term students may notice the increase in quantity of content between A level and GCSE. It's important that students ensure that they are proactive in addressing any uncertainties about the course and the texts we study. The first port of call in this situation should always be their classroom teacher, but SharePoint can also direct students to course documents and additional reading that will support their learning.	

Independent study this term: should be focused on knowing the course texts intimately, so re-reading the passages discussed in class and turning annotations into notes is essential to overall success. Students have been asked to watch a production of the Shakespeare play <i>Othello</i>, which can be watched for free via Planet e-Stream (accessible via the Student Room from their college accounts). A good understanding of the story makes a big difference to studying the play in class.	
Pro-study this term: will introduce the concept of wider reading to students, with a series of articles, videos and tasks that complement classroom activities. All students should have received their Pro-Study booklets, for which they have been asked to pay £5. This payment can be made via MyProgress by going to Shop>Wares and choosing English 1A Literature ProStudy Student Workbooks. This payment is to cover printing costs, and we ask it is made by 30th September.	
Next assessment(s): Students will be completing an essay on John Keats and an essay on Othello before the October half-term. These essays will be set as homework.	
Further links:	Other reminders: Please remember to purchase the Pro-Study booklets via MyProgress - £5 for printing costs. Any subject queries can be directed to the Head of English, Paul Abbott pja@collyers.ac.uk

English Language & Literature	Back
This term in English Lang/Lit we will be introducing our new students to the first-year course content: the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy, the Margaret Atwood novel <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>, and the Paris Anthology (the Atwood novel is the only text we ask students to purchase in year one – the rest will be supplied). Students will begin to understand the assessment objectives for the course, learn new linguistic terminology and begin to make the step from GCSE to A level analysis.	
This term students may notice the increase in both quantity of content and levels of assessment between A level and GCSE. With this in mind, it's important that students ensure that they are proactive in addressing any uncertainties about the course. The first port of call in this situation should always be their classroom teacher, but SharePoint can also direct students to course documents and additional reading that will support their learning.	
Independent study this term: should be focused on knowing the course texts intimately, so re-reading the passages discussed in class and turning annotations into notes is essential to overall success. Students should all endeavour to read <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> before they begin studying it in November. Knowing the text means that classroom study can be focused on essay technique and high-level discussion of the author's methods.	
Pro-study this term: will introduce the concept of wider reading to students, with a series of articles, videos and tasks that complement classroom activities. All students should have received their Pro-Study booklets, for which they have been asked to pay £5. This payment can be made via MyProgress by going to Shop>Wares	

and choosing English 1A Language and Literature ProStudy Student Workbooks . This payment is to cover printing costs, and we ask it is made by September 30 th .	
Next assessment(s): Students will complete an essay on Carol Ann Duffy and a language test before October half-term.	
Further links:	Other reminders: Please remember to purchase the Pro-Study booklets via MyProgress - £5 for printing costs. Any subject queries can be directed to the Head of English – Paul Abbott – pja@collyers.ac.uk

English GCSE	Back
This term in GCSE English The first half-term in GCSE English is all about preparing for the November re-take opportunity. We go through all the questions that will be asked in Paper 1- <i>Explorations in Creative Writing</i> , so that students are clear on exactly what to expect from the exam. We also look at and discuss sample answers, together with examiner's commentary, so that students are clear on what the examiner expects from them. Students will practice responding to each question to complete a full Paper 1 exam. This same process is carried out for Paper 2 - <i>Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</i> . The November public examinations are the week after half-term. The general aim for the second half-term is to ease off the exam prep. a little and work on sustained writing. Students enjoy this opportunity to further their skills in developing characters and narratives. By the end of the Autumn term, all students will have produced well-polished and refined pieces of work that they can be proud of.	
This term students may notice the accelerated pace with which the course content is delivered. They will also notice that whilst they are still Level 2 students, they are expected to engage with their learning in a more mature and proactive manner than in secondary school. To effectively develop the study skills and habits that are required for success at Level 3, it is essential that GCSE English students maintain motivation and discipline.	
Independent study this term: To dispel any notion that ' <i>reading is boring</i> ', students are supported in identifying a topic or theme in which they are especially interested. They are then expected to find a book on that topic and read it. Their teacher can help with this and will engage them in discussion about their reading as the term progresses.	
Pro-study this term:	
Next assessment(s): Induction Assessment will be conducted week commencing 15 th September	
Further links:	Other reminders: AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1 – Tuesday 3rd November (am) AQA GCSE English Language Paper 2 – Thursday 5th November (am)

French	Back
This term in French we will start with GCSE grammar revision to ensure that students have a solid grammatical base, essential throughout the course. The topics of study will be <i>La famille en voie de changement</i> (Unit 1), <i>La cybersociété</i> (Unit 2) and <i>Le rôle du bénévolat</i> (Unit 3). We will discuss trends in marriage and other forms of partnership, merits and problems of different family structures, benefits and dangers of digital technology and its possible future developments, and benefits of voluntary work for those that are helped and for those who volunteer. After completing Unit 3, we will move onto the study of our first work, the film <i>La Haine</i>. Each topic includes a strong focus on vocabulary building and grammar practice. Students will develop their understanding of those topics of study whilst learning exam techniques to improve the four skills (reading, listening, speaking and writing). One lesson a week will be in the computer room to allow students to work on their listening skills, and there will also be one speaking lesson a week to discuss the topics of study and increase confidence in speaking.	
This term students may notice the increased speed at which the content is delivered including the heavy weight on content, grammar and accuracy. There will be a good amount of vocabulary to learn every week (30-40 a week), and students will develop new skills such as writing summaries in French from a written text or an audio recording. There will also be a strong emphasis on translation both into French and into English.	
Independent study this term: Homework is set twice a week (on Mondays and Thursdays) on Teams. Students will be expected to correct their own work (corrections available for students on SharePoint), but the work will be checked by teachers at the beginning of the class and some of the students' work will be collected weekly. In addition, students will need to learn and review vocabulary regularly, ideally every other day. Students are strongly encouraged to immerse themselves in the language. Watching films in French (available on SharePoint or as DVDs in the library) and listening to free podcasts such as InnerFrench regularly will greatly improve their listening skills.	
Pro-study this term: Pro-study is set on Teams every Friday and due the following Friday. The schedule and resources are available to students on SharePoint. Pro-study resources will help students to consolidate topics covered in lessons.	
Next assessment(s): Assessment of the transition unit (Passerelle) at the end of September. Afterwards, there will be a weekly vocabulary test and a grammar test. End of unit tests take place approximately every 3 weeks. There will also be a speaking test in mid-October and at the beginning of December.	
Further links: Workshop timetable: Fridays 1:20-2:05 pm (TBC)	Other reminders: Students will need to purchase the textbook and resources bundle via My Shop on My Progress by the end of September. Students will need to check Teams regularly and familiarise themselves with SharePoint.

German	Back
This term in German we will be covering the topics Familie im Wandel (Unit1), Digitale Welt (Unit2) and Feste und Traditionen (Unit4) including the foundational grammar skills students will need in the remainder of their A level. We will discuss relationships, problems within families, discuss and understand the changing roles and expectations in partnerships; how to use the internet, the benefits and dangers of social networks, the digital society and its future developments; we will describe and explain the origins of festivals in Germany, we will discuss the social and economic importance of traditions, the diversity of festivals and traditions in German-speaking countries and students get to research a festival or tradition. While the content may be familiar to most, it will be more in-depth and students will learn lots of techniques, such as how to improve their reading, to summarise a reading passage, to discuss advantages/disadvantages in German, to interpret and explain figures and statistics, and translate into German/English.	
This term students may notice the increased speed at which content is delivered, including the heavy weight on content and grammar. Students may notice an expectation to complete homework from one day to the next, which may be different to what they have experienced at school. There is, therefore, the expectation that the students act quickly if they are unsure about something by asking questions or by coming to see me so that I can put extra support in place, such as workshops or 1-to-1 meetings.	
Independent study this term: Due to the speed of delivery, it is important the students learn the vocabulary and grammar on a regular basis (not just before the tests) and complete extra reading/listening exercises to broaden their knowledge of the language and culture. I would always encourage students to be proactive to improve their understanding.	
Pro-study this term: The schedule and material/documents are on the SharePoint site – students have 1 week to complete the document which consists of reading comprehensions, listening exercises related to our current topics and extra material to prepare yourself for the film <i>das Leben der Anderen</i> which we will study. All the activities should give the students a wider knowledge of the language and culture and prepare them for the film. Every week students should hand in a hardcopy and download the next one.	
Next assessment(s): Students will be assessed in their first week (diagnostic, grammar-based test) to give me an indication of what grammar they have learned so far. There will be regular vocabulary tests and end-of-unit grammar tests. The first assessment (PR1) will take place the week commencing 19 October 2026. The second assessment (PR2) will take place the week commencing 7 December 2026.	
Further links: Workshops – individual support will be given as required	Other reminders: Students need to confirm/commit to the German Exchange. Students should have purchased the textbook for the first year over the summer. Please purchase Kerboodle resource book £6.23

Geography	Back
This term in Geography you will begin by studying Tectonics, the first physical Geography unit of the course. There will be a short answer knowledge-based test after the first couple of weeks, with an essay taking place once all lessons of the unit have been covered. We will then move on to Globalisation, which is the first human Geography unit in the course. We will stick with Globalisation until early December, when we will move on to Coasts.	
This term students may notice the step up in work level that is required at A Level, in particular the extra work that is required outside of lessons. In Geography there is also the expectation that you will do wider reading on the different topics that you are studying. For example, when it comes to globalisation, trying to keep up to date with global news and keeping an eye out for examples of globalisation that you can see there.	
Independent study this term: Students will need to consolidate their work and spend time outside of lessons making sure they understand the content that we are covering. If they have any gaps in their knowledge, for example due to missing lessons, then they should be proactive and take advantage of the workshops that the department offers.	
Pro-study this term: Pro-Study is used partly to encourage the additional reading that students need to be doing at A Level. Each week students should also review their class notes from the previous week and complete a range of practice questions in their Weekly Questions Booklet, which is provided for each unit of study.	
Next assessment(s): Tectonics essay – beginning of October Globalisation test – mid October	
Further links:	Other reminders:

Graphic Communication	Back
During the Autumn Induction term for Graphics, students will identify their coursework theme and explore a wide array of graphics techniques and processes, including typography, print-making, design and Adobe Photoshop skills. The focus will be on quickly building confidence in a broad set of skills necessary for advanced work. This will be enhanced by studying the practices of various contemporary designers. Our SharePoint site includes all lessons, homework, and Pro Study assignments with exemplar examples. It also contains PowerPoints, videos and visual aids used in class to support personal study. Additionally, it provides details of our wider Arts curriculum, competitions and careers within the Arts. There is also a Boost section with further reading, videos, seminars and conferences for students to enrich their studies in this subject.	
This term students may notice the rapid pace and difficulty of A Level work. Tasks will focus on honing advanced practical skills, disciplined creativity, and efficient craft techniques. Emphasis will be placed on practical design skills and personal study tasks and developing individual styles. While students may not enjoy	

every process introduced, they are expected to fully engage with each medium to make informed decisions about their future work on the A Level.	
Independent study this term: Students are required to complete set weekly 5 hours of work. During Personal Study lessons, the dedicated Open Studio D103 is open from 8am-4.30pm fully equipped with all media and PCs Students seeking to learn new processes or needing help with homework can attend workshops led by the Head of Art, also signposted on each studio door.	
Pro-study this term: For Pro-study this term, students must write a 200-word blog entry each week based on a contemporary graphics theme. This blog allows students to make personal judgments and observations without the constraints of specialist vocabulary used in formal critical analysis, fostering their creative metacognition and broadening their perception of what the Graphics industry involves. It is an essential contribution to the written content in their coursework.	
Next assessment(s): Each Project is formally assessed when completed with grades A*-E with feedback, see Scheme of Work for deadlines. This forms a significant part of the A Level coursework.	
Further links:	Other reminders: Students will need to purchase their equipment bundle pack of £40 on My Progress Shop at the start of the year, see letter given to students with details. Adobe Photoshop/Fresco accounts will be allocated to each student through their college email account.

History	Back
This term students will be introduced to how to study history at A-Level. This involves how to read historical writing, take notes, write essays, understand sources, and how to become an independent learner. Such study skills are threaded through content. Students study two papers each week, China and Russia. In the China paper they study Establishing Communist Rule, 1949 – 1957 and Agriculture & Industry, 1949 – 1965, and in the Russia paper they study Communist government in the USSR, 1917 – 1985 and Social Developments, 1917 -85. Studying these themes also introduces examined concepts: change and continuity, cause, consequence, significance, similarity and difference.	
This term students may notice a change in the pace and range of lessons compared to GCSE level. They will also notice an increase in the volume of work. This is offset by the availability of teaching materials on the schedule published on the History SharePoint and the use of Microsoft Teams for deadlines and communication. They will be expected to work more independently and immerse themselves in all aspects of the history curriculum but will be supported by their teachers through workshops and enrichment.	
Independent study this term: Students are expected to follow a 50:50 model of learning where students match their lesson hours with independent study time, engaging with weekly reading, exam practice and pro study, as published on the schedule.	

Pro-study this term: This is set weekly on the schedule and on Teams and prefaces the lessons. It consists of reading and note-taking from the Edexcel recommended textbook, <i>Communist States in the Twentieth Century</i> : ISBN 978 1471837913	
Next assessment(s): Students are assessed regularly. They have weekly content quizzes on Teams and write exam-style paragraphs assessed by the student, peers and teachers. There are four key assessments, teacher assessed and graded each term, with grades recorded in Markbook on MyProgress. All assessments are on the schedule, key assessments indicated in bold font.	
Further links: Workshop timetable	Other reminders:

Law	Back
This term in Law students will be studying the module Criminal Law. This module is worth 75% of Paper 1. It includes sixteen topics in total (<i>preliminary offences, fatal offences, non-fatal offences, property offences, general defences, mental defences</i>). Simultaneously to learning content, students will be establishing the key skills required to be successful in this subject. Key skills include the ability to ‘study’ legal text, become a critical reader, extract key information from wider texts, articulate in both verbal and written form, and write concisely in timed conditions. Students will begin to understand the demands of the exam board (OCR), including assessment objectives and how to achieve them.	
This term students may notice the rapid pace and complexities of studying at A-level. The Law specification is very heavy in content and will be delivered at speed. Students must learn the content as they work through the topics. It is therefore essential that students adapt quickly and are robust, resilient and disciplined in their approach to their legal studies. Due to the volume of work, it is vital that students are highly organised. It is very important that students understand the content rather than simply memorising content. To this extent, students must be confident in class to ask questions if they are unsure about any element being taught	
Independent study this term: Due to the vast amount of factual content being delivered and at speed, it is very important that students adopt good study habits right from the beginning of the course (revision starts on day one). Successful law students are proactive. After each lesson, students should review and condense class notes and make revision materials as they work through the topics. Students should also practice writing answers to past exam questions. As students have to retain this information for two years, it is vital that they continuously review prior learning. As a minimum, students should be conducting at least 6 hours of independent study per week. Often students study many more hours than this.	
Pro-study this term is set on TEAMS twice a week (depending upon where the lessons fall). Directed pro-study will vary depending upon what is being studied. The pro-study will be checked in class, and the content will form the basis of the lesson. Therefore, it is important that students complete this work in full and to a good standard.	
Next assessments:	

Assessments will take various forms and will always be sat in timed exam conditions • Students will be assessed in the first week based on their summer work • Weekly or by-weekly topic tests will assess current learning • Key assessments will form the basis of Progress Review reporting	
Further links:	Other reminders: Students purchase the A-Level Law textbook (2 nd edition) Students pay £30.00 for workbooks/resources in My Progress Shop Students purchase their own stationery required: Arch lever A4 folder, A4 lined paper, dividers, black and red pens, assortment of colour highlighters

Music A-level	Back
This term in A level Music, students will look at all 3 strands of the course: Analysis: We start by refreshing their knowledge about the last 500 years of Western Classical Music and making sure they understand the theoretical concepts required for the A level. After half term, we will begin studying the vocal set works for the exam. Composition: We will look at the musical elements and how they form the building blocks with a composition task based solely on harmony, also getting students used to MuseScore and Sibelius notation software. This will be developed into a short piece incorporating stylistic features by Christmas. Performance: After an informal performance in class on the 25th September, students will perform in a lunchtime concert on the 27th November. They will also need to complete a performance diary, a recording of a piece that they are working on each half term. These will be assessed. As part of their music studies, students must take part in at least one musical activity as an enrichment.	
This term students may notice that it starts by being quite familiar, but quickly increases in pace and breadth compared to previous music studies. In addition to the course content, there are many procedures and resources to become familiar with, such as use of Macs, Teams, SharePoint and many more, all of which will help and support their studies going forward. Some of this might seem daunting so it will also be stressed that I am here to help.	
Independent study this term: It is very important to remember individual practice is key to success in music. Students are expected to practice daily and have weekly lessons on their principal instrument. If there are any barriers to this, please contact brd@collyers.ac.uk Practice needs to be managed alongside their other work, so time management is key. If there are areas of the course in which students struggle, such as an elements of music theory, then they will be set additional work to complete in their own time.	
Pro-study this term: There is a comprehensive Pro-Study scheme of work on SharePoint with detailed links to further listening, videos, articles, podcasts and more to help further their understanding of the history of music being studied.	
Next assessment(s): After initial performance, theory and history assessments, there will be similar assessments each half term. The crucial ones are the	

Performance video diaries 23rd Oct and 17th December; Composition task 1 Deadline on 12th December; Theory Assessment 22 Oct and 10th December

Further links:

[Music Handbook](#) (only accessible by students)

Other reminders:

Opera trip in October

Students purchase their own stationery required:

Arch lever A4 folder, A4 lined paper, dividers, black and red pens, assortment of colour highlighters

Please purchase a copy of the Edexcel A Level Music Study Guide and Rhinegold AS Harmony Workbook

Christmas Concert on the 3rd December

Music Practitioners

[Back](#)

This term in Music Practitioners we cover the following 5 things:

- 1) Introduction to the course during lesson time, how to use the classroom resources and where to find this information outside of lessons.
- 2) Where to find support during and outside of lessons (poster on classroom wall, covered in the first lesson, Teams, Music Practitioners SharePoint - all explained in class);
- 3) How we use Teams (students must have the Teams app on their phone, all work submission, resources for each lesson, all communication between staff and students, lesson-specific support resources, recorded video demos where necessary);
- 4) Developing skills needed for ALL first-year units, as well as the second-year, externally-assessed unit on live music.
- 5) Start Unit 366: Sequencing. The [First Year Music Practitioners Workbook](#) covers most of the content needed for the whole year on p1-7 and FAQs can be found in the [Music Practitioners Course Information booklet](#) (links accessible by students)

This term students may notice there is quite a lot of new content getting used to the course, resources and ways of working. This learning curve will flatten out as the term progresses and we can focus on the remaining unit content without having to go over some content again, such as how to use Macs, Teams, classroom resources etc.

Independent study this term:

ALL students will need to make use of the classroom to keep on top of any Unit 366: Sequencing work they may have to do to meet deadlines. The times when the classroom is available are on a poster by the classroom door and shared in the class's Teams group.

Performing Pathway students only will need to be preparing for rehearsals as described in class and the Live Music Performance Support SharePoint page. When the rehearsal rooms are available and bands have been created, **Performance Pathway students only** will need to organise, book and attend ONE rehearsal per week in college as part of the exam board's guided learning hours for the course.

Technology Pathway students only will need to organise, book and attend ONE tech team meeting per week in groups of 2-4 to practice setting up and using the college's live sound equipment in college as part of the exam board's guided learning hours for the course.

Pro-study this term: This focuses on the skills needed to do the first Unit – 366: Sequencing for ALL students. Work done outside of lessons as described above and in Pro Study will need to be recorded in the First Year Music Practitioners Workbook p9-11. (links accessible by students)	
Next assessment(s): All upcoming assessment details can be found in the student's Music Practitioners Teams group. The first one this term is Unit 366 practice project ('Song Exercises') on 25th September. There will be assessments throughout the year on skills needed for each course Unit. One Unit will be completed this term – Unit 366: Sequencing, deadlines for this are below. - Unit 366: Sequencing: - Task 1 1st submission = 20th November 16:30 - Task 2 1st submission = 27th November 16:30 - Unit 366 Final Submission (both Tasks) = 11th December 16:30	
Further links: Workshop times	Other reminders: Students should have completed the summer work by now and must have the Teams app on their phone.

Philosophy	Back
This term in Philosophy, students will have two lessons of work with James and two with Sarah. With James there will be a general introduction to Philosophy, including arguments, premises, conclusions, counterarguments and so on, as well as exam technique for A Level Philosophy. After half term, the students will be exploring the definition of propositional knowledge. With Sarah, the students will be starting the Moral Philosophy course, starting with Utilitarianism – the theory of the greatest happiness for the greatest number. Later in the term they will be studying Kantian ethics, a very different approach to right and wrong.	
This term students may notice that they find it challenging to engage with a new subject that they have not experienced before. Even with students who have completed Philosophy of Religion & Ethics GCSE, there are substantial differences in approach. The level of precision and the rigour of thinking in the subject may take time to get used to, as may the substantial burden of revision for assessments.	
Independent study this term: Students should also regularly consolidate their notes and practice their revision on a weekly basis. They may also consider viewing and attempting past paper questions after they have been briefed on question style by the teachers.	
Pro-study this term: Students should keep up with the required reading, accessible online in the freely provided textbook. Students should be watching the Massolit video lectures. Details on both are available on the schemes of work. There will also be practice questions set on Teams as the term progresses. For moral Philosophy, there is some required advance preparation required each week. Tasks will often be set in lessons which need some time to be completed in Pro Study time.	
Next assessment(s): Before the end of the half term, students will sit 4 exam questions in timed conditions. Full details, including what to revise, will be given well in advance of the assessments.	
Further links:	Other reminders: All students need to purchase the required revision guide "My Revision Notes: AQA A-level Philosophy

	Paper 1 Epistemology and Moral Philosophy” as discussed in class
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Photography	Back
This term in A Level Photography students will explore and develop camera skills focusing on formal elements, shutter speeds, depth of field, ISO and white balance. Lessons will incorporate both theory and practical work with students working in groups on campus to create responses. At half term students will be set ‘The Environment Project’ and may choose to focus on the urban, rural or coastal environment, exploring concepts such as pattern and abstract photography. Students will be required to research, plan, photograph and develop personal and meaningful responses to their theme. All work will be documented in a digital or traditional physical sketchbook. Late Autumn term students will be inducted and produce photograms in the college darkroom, as well as the college studio. Each week students will submit their best photograph for a weekly competition 'Pic of the Week'.	
This term students may notice that the course is fast paced with a new technique introduced each week for the first half term.	
Independent study this term: Students will be expected to develop skills outside of lesson time and complete photoshoots at home or on location to explore the camera skills taught in class. Sketchbook must be updated weekly to include both class and independent work, this could be research and analysis, shoot planning and sketches, contact sheets, photographs and edited/experimental work. Students may wish to visit galleries and exhibitions in their free time to help support their work and visit inspiring locations relevant to their environment project theme.	
Pro-study this term: Students must organise their sketchbook and plan photography study/photoshoot time within their weekly timetable. Pro Study tasks will be set via Teams and students will be asked to read an article- add notes, thoughts and comments. Or visit an online exhibition writing up thoughts and experiences in their sketchbook or practise a technique, again recording their outcomes in their sketchbook. All resources and links can be found in the set Teams assignment. Pro Study work will be shared in class each week.	
Next assessment(s): Weekly or bi-weekly assessments will be set via Teams assignments, with the deadline set each Friday at 5pm. Students must upload sketchbooks including the completed relevant work. All work produced from September will be assessed as the end of year Transfer exam grade. As Year 1 is 100% coursework students must use teacher feedback to develop and improve work.	
Further links: WEX Photo Video for secondhand equipment	Other reminders: Students should have completed their summer work and have their own camera ready to use. Please purchase the Photography A level Digital or Physical materials pack from the MyProgress shop. Adobe Creative Cloud including Photoshop is available to all Photography students and can be downloaded onto home computers using college email address, please do not pay for a subscription.

Politics	Back
The first year of Politics is entirely focused on the UK. The course is taught in 2 parallel sides, by separate teachers. This term we are establishing key concepts for our first 2 units: Democracy and the UK Constitution. We begin with these units because they are helpful in understanding future topics, such as voting behaviour in general elections and the powers of the prime minister. After half-term, we study UK political parties and the functions and effectiveness of the UK Parliament.	
This term students may notice that there is a substantial amount of ‘flipped learning’ – work that it is essential to complete in advance of lessons. This may be different to many students’ experiences of GCSE. This will require students to be organised, independent and mindful of deadlines, to ensure that they get the most out of lessons.	
Independent study this term: There will be extension reading that those aiming for high grades should attempt. Students are encouraged to follow current affairs (for example through checking BBC News) to help familiarise themselves with political concepts, issues, personalities and examples. Independent study will be set on Teams assignments and will be expected to be uploaded by the first Politics lesson of the week.	
Pro-study this term: Students will be introduced to our departmental SharePoint site and shown how to access resources for independent learning. They will also be added to a class Team and shown how to access and hand in assignments. Tasks will introduce, extend and consolidate learning in class.	
Next assessment(s): There will be 2 formal assessments in the week beginning Monday, 12th October. Each will be a 45-minute timed essay. To support student progress the questions will be known in advance. Future essays will use previously unseen questions. Students should be aware that these are developmental/practice assessments that will not count towards their final grade.	
Further links: Workshops are on Thursday lunchtimes	Other reminders: • Booklets are £8 for the year. • There is a Politics Instagram account that highlights relevant examples. Students can choose to follow this if they would like to: @collyerspolitics

Spanish	Back
This term in Spanish, in the first few weeks, we are establishing/revising the foundation skills students will need to build on. Then, we will start the first unit/topic <i>Changes in the family structure</i> followed by <i>Cyberspace</i> and <i>Equality of the sexes</i>. These topics aimed at learning about the Hispanic world as well as improving the students’ language.	
This term students may notice the increased speed at which content is delivered when compared to GCSE. There will be a good amount of vocabulary to learn and new skills to develop, like writing summaries for texts and audios, as well as a strong emphasis on translation in both directions. One of the lessons will be in a computer room where they will be set listening tasks to work on individually as they will be required to do in the final exam, hence the need for headphones.	

Independent study this term: Students will have to complete weekly tasks: some to be checked in class and some to hand in to be checked by the teacher. Students are encouraged to read and listen to the news in Spanish: examples given in the induction booklet. Examiners tend to set questions based on past news items.	
Pro-study this term: Before a new unit there are activities to revise GCSE vocabulary and grammar and afterwards there will be activities to consolidate new vocabulary and grammar learnt for that unit. They will be set up via Teams.	
Next assessment(s): Once the induction period finishes there is a diagnostic to assess how strong a foundation students have and to identify gaps in the grammar knowledge. Afterwards, there will be weekly vocabulary test and an end-of-unit test (approximately every 3 weeks).	
Further links: Workshop timetable: TBA	Other reminders: Bring/buy headphones compatible with college computers, which support a 3.5mm round jack. Pay £15 for printing cost of booklets via the MyProgress Shop (one payment for the whole year).

Textiles	Back
During the Autumn Induction term for Textiles, students will identify their coursework theme and explore a wide array of Sample materials, techniques and processes, including print-making, quilting, dyeing and creative embroidery. The focus will be on quickly building confidence in a broad set of skills necessary for advanced work. This will be enhanced by studying the practices of various contemporary designers. Our SharePoint site includes all lessons, homework and Pro Study assignments with exemplar examples. It also contains PowerPoints, videos and visual aids used in class to support personal study. Additionally, it provides details of our wider Arts curriculum, competitions and careers within the Arts. There is also a Boost section with further reading, videos, seminars and conferences for students to enrich their studies in this subject.	
This term students may notice the rapid pace and difficulty of A Level work. Tasks will focus on honing advanced practical skills, disciplined creativity and efficient craft techniques. Emphasis will be placed on book craft skills for personal study tasks. While students may not enjoy every process introduced, they are expected to fully engage with each medium to make informed decisions about their future work on the A Level.	
Independent study this term: Students are required to complete weekly sketchbook assignments for group critiques every week. This involves 5 hours of work per week. During Personal Study lessons, the dedicated Open Studio D103 is open from 8am-4.30pm fully equipped with all media, sewing machine and PCs. Students seeking to learn new processes or needing help with homework can attend workshops led by the Head of Art, also signposted on each studio door.	
Pro-study this term: For Pro-study this term, students must write a 200-word blog entry each week based on a contemporary textiles theme. This blog allows students to make personal judgments and observations without the constraints of specialist vocabulary used in formal critical analysis, fostering their creative metacognition and broadening their perception of what Textiles involves. It is an essential contribution to the written content in their coursework.	

Next assessment(s): Each weekly independent study is assessed A*-E grade. Final assessment of the Samples Term will take place in January. This assessment will be a significant part of the Year 1 Transfer Exam in Textiles, later in the academic year.

Further links:

Other reminders: Students will need to purchase their equipment bundle pack of £40 on My Progress Shop at the start of the year, see letter given to students with details. Adobe Photoshop/Fresco accounts will be allocated to each student through their college email account.