

23 November 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

**RE: A Level Completion of Component 1 ESA information**

I write to seek your support in monitoring the on-going work and progress of your child in their A-Level Fine Art / Photography studies. As you are no doubt already aware, Component 1 Coursework Portfolio and supporting 1,000 - 3,000-word essay is worth 60% and Component 2 Externally Set Assignment (Exam component) is worth 40% of the A Level. The remaining timetable for the year is relatively short.

The Externally Set Assignment is due to start in February. Students will be given a starting point of 7 questions and will select 1 from this. They will then develop a body of work based on this theme. Their final outcome will be produced during their 15 hours of supervised time under exam conditions as set out by AQA. This will take place during April / May. All preparation work for this must be submitted on the first day of the supervised time and it cannot be added to. After the 15 hours of supervised time all work must be submitted for their Component 2 ESA. This therefore means that they can work on developing their Component 1 sustained unit until the end of the course but cannot work on their ESA Component 2.

Students now have a limited time to develop and refine their component 1: Sustained Unit and supporting essay. We would really like to have most of this completed by February to ensure that students are confident to start their ESA. We would therefore like to promote our extra sessions which take place afterschool, Monday – Friday and most lunchtimes. These sessions are very popular and invaluable, however not all students attend at present and we would like to see more uptake if possible. It is an expectation that A Level Fine Art and Photography students use some of their study time to complete extra time in the studio to ensure that they are developing their portfolios.

I do hope that we can work together to ensure the best possible success in the forthcoming months.

Yours faithfully,



Miss E Appleby  
Head of Art