

23 November 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

**RE: GCSE 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 GCSE Fine Art / Photography studies. As you are no doubt already aware, Component 1 Coursework Portfolio is worth 60% and Component 2 Externally Set Assignment (Exam component) is worth 40% of the GCSE award. The remaining timetable for the year is relatively short.

The Externally Set Assignment is due to start in January. 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 10 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 10 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 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. We would really like to have most of this completed by January 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 students attend these if possible.

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