

12/10/2017

Dear Parents and/or Guardians

### **Art GCSE: Opportunities for Extra Working Including October Half Term**

As you are no doubt aware, Art & Design GCSE is a coursework subject which demands a high level of quality and also a substantial quantity of work in order to achieve a high pass (7, 8 or 9). The deadline for Year 11 students to submit their final 'sustained' coursework project is fast approaching. This project needs to be finished in January, shortly after the Year 11 Mock Exams, and is worth 60% of the GCSE grade.

I have been conducting reviews of Year 11 students' projects, and it has been brought to light that many students have not produced the volume of work that I would expect to have been done by now. I am contacting all parents/guardians now to make you aware of what students are expected to be doing outside lessons, and to tell you about various opportunities for students to come into the Art Department to complete extra work.

For the current 'sustained' project, students are expected to work independently on a theme and direction of their choice. At home, students should be carrying out at least one hour of work per week. The type of work that can be easily done at home is research into the work of other artists (I am expecting research into 6 relevant artists by Christmas, not including the artists studied in Year 10). Students can also take home their sketchbooks to produce drawings (I am expecting at least 6 high quality observational drawings by Christmas).

In school, students should be using lesson time to produce experiments with a variety of media. They should be starting to develop a specialist interest in one particular technique or group of techniques (e.g. painting, printmaking, sculpture). If they are not producing enough of this type of work, or if they need one-to-one assistance with learning a new technique, they need to come up in lunchtimes or after school to seek help. The Art department is open every lunchtime apart from Tuesdays. The Art department is also open **after school until 5:30pm every Monday and Wednesday**, and students can usually stay after school on other days of the week if they check with me first.

In October half term, there will be one day when students can come into school to work independently on coursework for a sustained period of time. This date will be **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2017**. The Art Department will be open between 9:00am and 4:00pm on that day. Students will sign in and out of school on a paper register which will be taken in the Art department by the supervising member of staff. For safety purposes, it would also be advisable for your son to notify you upon their arrival to and departure from school.

Students should come to school in sensible own clothes, bearing in mind the practical nature of the activities they will be carrying out. There are no catering facilities on the school site during the holidays so students will need to make provision for their own food and drink throughout the day. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries (LMThomas@judd.kent.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely

Miss L M Thomas  
Head of Art