

FAQs – Textiles

Q: *Do I have to have studied Textiles before to take the A level?*

A: You don't need to have any experience of studying textiles previously, but you do need a keen interest in design and making things. Follow @artqmc on Instagram if you want to get a flavour of what our current and former students have done.

Q: *How does it differ from GCSE?*

A: If you have studied Textiles at GCSE then the A level will build on your existing skills. It is an art subject, and so we primarily look at the process of designing and creating fabrics rather than being focused on the finished product. Depending on the GCSE course you studied, you may have had to undertake a written exam, there is none for the A level course, it is assessed through two practical components of work created in the second year.

Q: *Do I have to do fashion / does it include fashion?*

A: Fashion is an important outcome for textiles and fabric design, but it is not the only one and the study of fashion is not compulsory on this course. If however, this is something you are interested in, you will have the opportunity to design and make garments, body adornments or costumes. You will also have the chance to create textile art, or products for interiors (like cushions, wallpapers and upholstery).

Q: *What other A levels does it combine well with?*

A: Textiles works well with most A level subjects and is acceptable for entry to most degrees and apprenticeships in a variety of subjects. Many students combine it with a second creative subject from the department if they are keen to pursue a creative career as it helps build a stronger portfolio for direct entry to university. We've had students combining it with pretty much every other A level in the college!

Q: *How is the course structured?*

A: The first year of the course is about learning textile techniques and processes and discovering what you are interested in and where your strengths are. There will be an introductory project to learn surface pattern techniques (dyeing, printing, embroidery, free machine and applique) and basic digital design. Then a main focused project explores 3D textiles, construction and experimental

techniques, the design process, and how to create a final body adornment. The final project of the year is a mock externally set assignment, where you will follow a question and devise your own project from it. In the second year you will learn more advanced techniques, like screen printing and weaving on the looms, and be able to select and develop your own personal project. The year ends with an Externally Set Assignment where you will select a topic from a choice of 12 set by the exam board and complete a practical project drawing together all your practical, design and making skills.