**A Level Art and Design.**

**Transition Work**

Firstly, I would like to wish you warm welcome to A Level Art and Design; we hope you enjoy the course. The following **three tasks** need to be completed before you return to school in September, and they have been designed to ease the difficult transition from GCSE to A level work. It will also give you the chance to practise your practical skills after having such a long break from the subject!

1. Please read the **Unit One** document, which outlines the coursework element of the AS course. We would like you to choose a *starting point* for your project before you return to school in September. This basically means you can select the human form, landscapes, still life, natural world etc. You really do not need to decide exactly how your project will develop over time, but you should think of possibilities that you can discuss with your teachers in the first lesson.
2. Take photographs that you can use in your project to draw from. Internet images should be avoided where possible at A Level, and so having lots of your own images ready in advance will be very useful. If you are going to an interesting location, make sure you take plenty of photos.
3. **Drawing Task**: Please select **one** of words below to create a drawing about

Memories, Structure, Connections, Reflections or Emotions.

Once you have chosen a word, create one large scale image that relates to it. This can be in any media such as pencil, paint, charcoal, ink or any combination of these. I would be great if you can try a material you have never used before. You can use any kind of paper/surface that you like; it does not have to be white paper. You could pre-prepare the surface of the paper by adding different types of paper together to create rough/smooth textures to draw on. You should draw to at least **A3** scale, or larger if you can. We will collect this work from you during the **first lesson.**

If you would like any further clarification on the above, please email me: rviner@littleheath.org.uk

I am very much looking forward to seeing you in September.



Mr R Viner

Head of Art and Design

AS Art and Design

**Unit One**

This project is worth 60% of your AS grade. We will begin this in September, and you will complete it by the end of January 2017.

For this unit you will create a project based on the theme. Initially this term you will be introduced to a variety of different practical techniques and processes through workshops and demonstrations, with the work you create being based on subject matter you have selected. This will result in a range of observational work which can be used when you present your project, and which will help you to consider new techniques that you may wish to investigate further as your project develops.

Firstly you should select an area, or genre, to focus on. For example you could study:

* Architecture
* Landscapes/Environments – natural or man-made
* The Human Form/Portraiture
* The Natural World
* Still Life

As mentioned in the transition work task – you could start the project with a word or phrase if you would prefer.

Think of possible ways to *really explore* the theme in your work; you may wish to think of less literal approaches to the subjects above as your work develops. For example the human form could be explored by looking at the internal structure of the body. Landscapes could be considered through reflections or unusual angles.

Once you have decided on a theme you should discuss your ideas with your teachers, as having a clear area of what you may like to focus on will ensure that your project can develop logically.

In most cases you will need to provide the images and objects to work from, and when working from photographs it is essential that you begin to work from your own as soon as possible.

**The overall structure of the project will be as follows:**

* **Observational studies** in a wide range of materials. A lot of this work will be created in workshops in the initial phase of the course. Please work from original images and avoid internet images where possible. Your own photography must be used to help generate images to work from and can be presented in sketchbooks to gain extra marks. If possible draw and sketch from direct observation – for example you could attend life-drawing classes if studying the human form. Try and be expressive and experimental with some work to complement detailed and refined drawings. Annotate some drawings to explain the process and what you were trying to achieve. **You should also include reference to artists who have studied similar themes during this initial stage; work in the style of someone you find interesting, present images of their work and include quotes alongside your drawings.**
* **Artist Research**. A minimum of two careful copies of a chosen artist in an appropriate material, along with written research and analysis – more on this to follow. You will need to discuss your choice of artist with your teachers, to ensure that the work is suitable.
* **Further Development (work in the style of…)** A very important phase in which you choose a technique relevant to your artist and create a series of original pieces in a similar style to refine your ability and ideas.
* **Design Ideas:** Four initial designs, with one of the ideas refined and developed further.
* **Final Outcome:** This will be done in lessons, and must be ambitious and carefully thought through. It should make a reference to your artist whilst being original and personal. Consider creating a range or series of final pieces to gain extra marks.

**You will present this work in a sketchbook, and it is essential that this is up to date and with you for each lesson. You will obviously need to use you own time to complete work, and we will be happy to accommodate you in your free time where possible. We have ‘catch up’ sessions every Wednesday afterschool in order to help you stay on top of your workload. These will be compulsory for those deemed to be behind or underachieving at any stage.**

**You will be given a ‘timeline’ for this project to help you manage deadlines effectively. After the introductory phase your teachers will discuss your projects with you and guide you individually each lesson as the work develops. Your work will be closely monitored and you will receive regular feedback, both verbally and written, to help you develop on the course and achieve the best grades possible.**

**Be ambitious this year, and try and be open to new ideas and possibilities. The best results at this level are achieved when students challenge themselves and build upon what they have learned during GCSE, rather than relying on what they have done well previously.**