



11 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you as your child is about to embark on year 11 of their Art GCSE course. We would like to congratulate our year 11s for all of the hard work and progress they made during year 10 in Art.

We feel that it is important to remind parents of the requirements of the course at this stage as they are very different from almost all other subjects. While your child will be informed of the requirements of the course as it progresses, we are aware that this information does not always get shared at home.

Unlike all other subjects, Art and Design is still very heavily weighted towards coursework. All of the work that students produce in year 10, and all of the work produced in year 11 until January, is their coursework. This means that the work that your child is producing now will directly contribute to 60% of their final grade for their GCSE, this is not the case for any other subject. This means that the grade that they achieve for this current project, is likely to be the grade that they achieve overall for their GCSE.

Because all of the work the students are producing is for their coursework, and worth 60% of their final grade, we cannot write on the students' work. If you look inside the front cover of your child's sketchbook you will find their yellow assessment sheet, this informs students of what they need to do for each task, how to complete it well and is where all of the work is marked. If you are interested, you can have a look at this sheet periodically to see how they are getting on and read any advice offered to help them to improve. On this sheet, you will also find your child's current predicted grade and their target grade.

If your child therefore fails to complete a piece of work that is set in lesson or for homework, this is a few marks that they will not achieve, almost like just not answering a question in one of their exams. For this reason, we have the department policy of setting afterschool mandatory catch up, if any work is left incomplete by the deadline. This is not set as a punishment, but as an opportunity for students to catch up on the coursework that is missing at school with support from their teacher.

HOMEWORK

There is a bit of a myth around the amount of homework given out in Art and Design. Almost every piece of work is started over a series of lessons (usually 3) in school, but as students work at different speeds (particularly in art) they are asked to complete the work at home if not yet finished. It is important that students make the very most of lesson time and therefore would have a minimal amount of work to complete at home. Where homework is set, we always endeavour to allow students a full week to complete it. With art work it can be difficult to know when to stop and therefore some students spend hours agonising over their work at the detriment of other subjects. We advise that students should need to spend no more than a maximum of three hours on their art homework within the week that they have been given to do it.

If completing work is challenging for students or if they would benefit from using some of our materials or expertise, we offer an afterschool Art session in the art classrooms on a Wednesday and Thursday from 3pm - 4.30pm.



Soham Village College
Sand Street, Soham
Ely, Cambridgeshire
CB7 5AA

Tel: 01353 724100
Email: svc@soham-college.org.uk
www.sohamvc.org

Other schools in our Trust:
Kennett Primary School
The Shade Primary School
The Weatheralls Primary School

DEADLINES

Throughout the course, students undertake 3 projects. The first two form their coursework (60%) and the last one is for their exam (40%). The exam in Art is also very different from all other exams. It lasts for 10 weeks and the students have to fill up a sketchbook during this time (just like with their coursework, but with less time). At the end, just like with the coursework there is a 10-hour exam.

Dates	Project	Weighting
April 2025 – November 2025	Unit 2 Coursework: 'Power'	60%
November 2025 – January 2026	Making improvements based on feedback	
January 2026 – April 2026	Unit 3: Exam (Title released by examination board in January)	40%

'FINAL PIECE DAYS (10-hour exam)'

At the end of each project (including the exam project) students will have a 10 hour 'final piece exam' to complete their final piece. This exam takes place over 2 days, so students instead of attending normal lessons on these days, the students will come to their usual art classroom, with their usual art teacher. There will be three of these during the course, one at the end of each project.

These final piece exam days represent the end of each project and are therefore the final deadlines for each project. Therefore, these times (November 2025 and April 2026) are likely to be pressure points for students in the course where they work hard to improve their submission before it is handed in. Any students that have slipped behind on any work set during the project are likely to find this time particularly stressful, but we are here to support them if required. Ideally, if all of the deadlines are met throughout the project, this situation will not occur for most students.

Finally, if there is anything that we can do to support your child or if you have any questions about the course, please do not hesitate to contact us via email. We find that regular communication with Parents often helps students to overcome any difficulties and supports them to make excellent progress.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs Anna Harvey

Director Of Art and Design Technology



Soham Village College
Sand Street, Soham
Ely, Cambridgeshire
CB7 5AA

Tel: 01353 724100
Email: svc@soham-college.org.uk
www.sohamvc.org

Other schools in our Trust:
Kennett Primary School
The Shade Primary School
The Weatheralls Primary School