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22nd September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Art and Design Information

Coursework (60%)

End of Year 10 Coursework Deadline: 25 September 2026

All sketchbook work started in Year 10 must be submitted for marking by this date.

Students will then begin work on the **second and final coursework outcome**. This term will be dedicated to:

- Further artist research
- Planning and development of ideas
- Experimentation and testing of media and techniques
- Preparation for the final coursework outcome

Students will begin their **5-hour coursework outcome** during the week beginning **2 November 2026**.

They will complete this in one of three groups:

- Group 1: 3 November
- Group 2: 4 November
- Group 3: 5 November

All coursework must be completed by Christmas. Students will also complete a **Creative Statement** explaining their ideas, influences and creative process.

Coursework will be marked in **January 2027**.

External Set Assignment (ESA) (40%)

The **External Set Assignment phase** will begin on **5 January 2027**.

Students will be issued with an exam paper and will choose **one of fifteen starting points**. They will then develop their project by:

- Researching and comparing two or more artists
- Producing observational drawings linked to their chosen theme
- Developing ideas through planning and experimentation
- Testing materials, techniques and processes in preparation for the final examination

Mock Test Piece: Before the ESA examination, students will complete a **3-hour mock test piece** under exam conditions. During this session, I am able to provide support and guidance.

- Group 1: 23 March
- Group 2: 24 March
- Group 3: 25 March

10-Hour ESA Examination

- Group 1: 20 & 21 April
- Group 2: 22 & 23 April
- Group 3: 27 & 28 April

Once the **10-hour examination** begins, all sketchbooks and preparatory work must be submitted and kept in school. Students will then focus solely on producing their final ESA outcome.

Following the examination, students will complete a **Creative Statement** explaining the ideas, concepts and creative journey they undertook throughout the project.

Assessment Weighting

- **Coursework:** 60%
- **External Set Assignment (ESA):** 40%

Key Dates

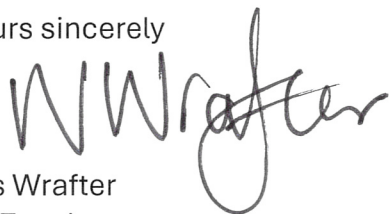
- **25 September 2026** – Year 10 coursework deadline
- **Week beginning 2 November 2026** – 5-hour coursework outcome
- **Christmas 2026** – Coursework completion deadline
- **January 2027** – Coursework marking
- **5 January 2027** – ESA begins
- **23-25 March 2027** – Mock test pieces
- **20-28 April 2027** – 10-hour ESA examinations

Creative Statements

Students will complete two Creative Statements during the course:

1. A coursework Creative Statement explaining the development of their coursework project.
2. An ESA Creative Statement reflecting on their exam project, ideas, influences and final outcome.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Wrafter
Art Teacher