

# Textiles

## Student Handbook

### Department Ethos

The Art and Design Department comprises OF 4 A Levels: Fine Art, textiles, Graphics, Photography. The department believes in the importance of learning, faith, community, teamwork and respect. And we are committed to providing quality, professional educational experiences for all students on all our courses.

### Department Staff

Mr Shaun Steele	Head of Art Department / Faculty
Ms Qainaat Ifran	Art Department Technician
Ms Emma King	Textiles Tutor
Ms Gina Burney	Graphics Tutor
Miss Dani Morrison	Art Tutor
Mr Gornall	Art Tutor
Mr Andrew Whitaker	Photography Tutor



### Resources:

We have a wide range of resources provided in the studio. However, we do charge a £15 'Studio Fee' which supplies you with a sewing kit, sketchbooks, and an A1 portfolio. Because you will work individually and therefore have varying needs it is likely that you will have to buy some specific fabrics or materials yourself from time to time.

### Other Resources

Camera rental - via the technician.

Silk screen printing room - via technician.

[www.pinterest.co.uk/xavtextiles](http://www.pinterest.co.uk/xavtextiles). Our Pinterest site has a wealth of resources to help with your course. There are boards full of artist inspiration, examples of past work and sketchbooks and links to helpful materials.

## Linear A Level:

This is a time-consuming, coursework-heavy subject which means dedication, energy and enthusiasm is crucial to be successful. Daring to be different and a desire to push boundaries is also a helpful quality. You will definitely need to be open-minded to experimenting, trying new things and having your own ideas. Imagination is essential as you will be working independently in response to open-ended project themes.

You will be taught through demonstrations, discussions and personal exploration by gathering inspiration through primary and secondary sources as well as stimulating artists and designers. By imaginatively combining techniques and materials you will be able to produce series of themed samples and outcomes.

Lessons are always supported by extra access to the studios and equipment with additional help and discussion with your tutor.

There is a written element to Component 1 in the form of a research essay addressed in the 2nd year.



## Student Support

Your teachers will continually support you throughout the year. You can request extra subject support to help you progress, and develop your work and there is a workshop space available for drop in at any time during the day.

## AQA Says students work can be weakened by:

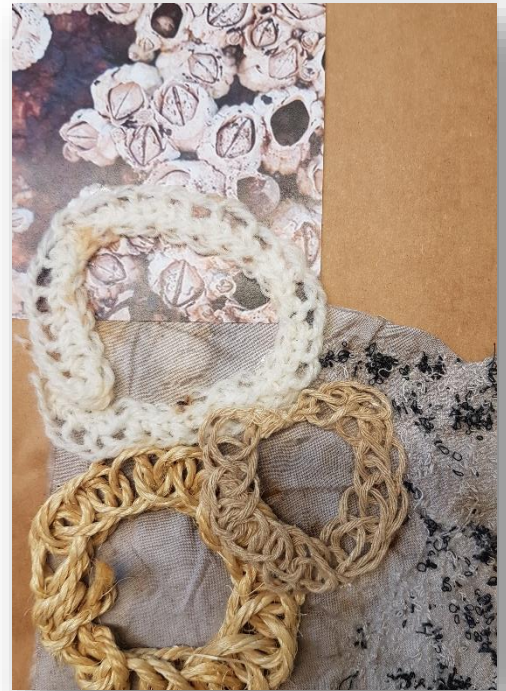
Poor Standard of presentation

Poor organisation.

Lack of logical development

Untidy writing.

Spelling errors



## Assessment

You will have regular formal assessments with progress grades. Submitted work will be returned with written feedback and if relevant a list of individual tasks for you to achieve.

However, continual informal discussion with your tutor should mean that you are always aware of your progress and how, if relevant, you can be improving. Discussing your work is another vital part of this course and the creative process, especially if gaining a good qualification is important to you.

You can ask for feedback on your progress at any time.



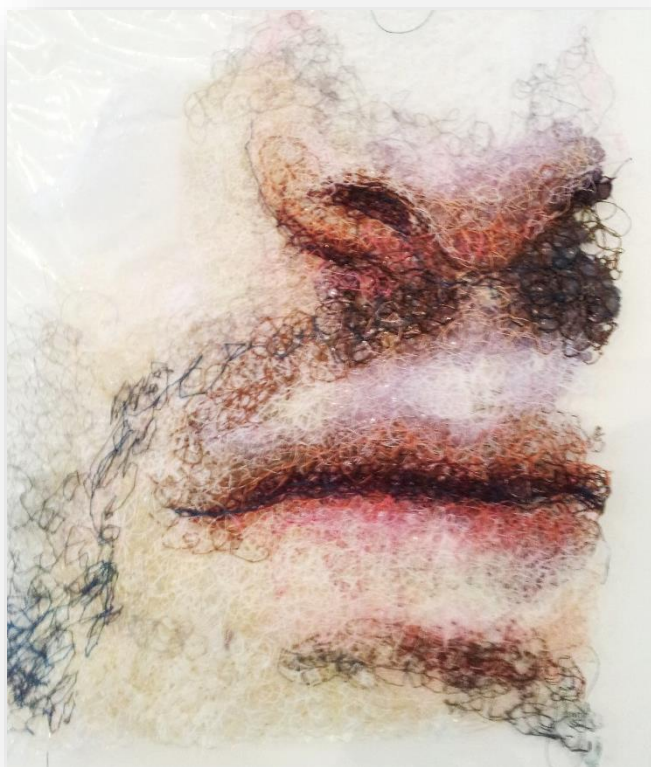
## Lessons & Homework:

This course will provide you with lots of opportunities for you to explore new techniques and approaches whilst improving the textile skills you already have. This course is artistic and expressive, so you are expected to be innovative and experimental.

You will be introduced to a wide-range of textile-based techniques and processes including knitting, hand embroidery, felting, applique, dying, machine embroidery, embellishing, printing, weaving, resist and heat distressing and you will record your ideas and creative journey in sketchbooks. You will also explore a wide range of materials from fabric to clay.

The courses begins with an introduction to a set of skills and techniques introduction and then allows for your own personal areas of interest.

You might construct fashion garments, but you might also make abstract pieces, sculptures, installations, wallpaper, or sewing machine drawings. This is a very exciting and adventurous course therefore you are expected to be innovative and experimental.



## Characteristics of a Successful Textiles Student

Daring, Adventurous, Experimental  
Confident, Regularly discusses their work  
Innovative, Imaginative, Inquisitive  
Analytical, Intelligent, Independent  
Technically Competent, Aesthetic  
Communicative, Committed, Enthusiastic



## Course Content:

### Year 1

The first year comprises of 2 projects addressing different approaches to textiles: Abstract Art and Illustrative textiles. These projects will also introduce you to a vast range of textile techniques, artists, and designers.

### Year 2

**Personal Investigation:** You will develop a practical project which will be supported by a written element of 1000- 3000 words.

**Externally Set Assignment:** You will have approximately ten weeks to produce prep work. At the end of this lead in time you will produce final work in 15 hrs of unaided, supervised time.

# Mindset

**Time:** ensure you are spending a minimum of 4 hours a week in addition to your lessons to develop your work substantially enough and get the best mark possible. Have you been doing extra time in the studio, at home, visiting galleries, drawing, designing, taking your own photographs? If not, you should get organised and make a start!

**Engagement:** have you reviewed your own work? Have you discussed your progress with Emma? Do you know how you are going to take your ideas further? Do you know what grade you are working to? Do you know what other students are working on and how much they have done?

**Response:** are you responding to advice and feedback from Emma? Have you discussed your ideas with other students to see if they have any more ideas to share? Have you had a fresh look on Pinterest recently?

**Resources:** are you experimenting with new materials and techniques? Do you need to buy any specialist materials to take your work in a new direction? Have you been researching new techniques?

**Organisation:** have you identified on your time-table when you are regularly going to do some extra textiles? Are you still doing this? Are you ahead or behind? What do you need to do to catch up?

## Careers: Where is all this leading me?

Many students go directly to University to study on Textiles or Fashion degree courses or study an Art Foundation course (which we run here at Xaverian).

Ultimately jobs related to textiles could include:

- Arts Administration
- Art Historian
- Art Therapist
- Conservator
- Costume Designer
- Fashion Buyer
- Fashion Designer
- Fashion Marketer
- Fashion Promoter
- Fine Artist
- Gallery Curator
- Interior Designer
- Jewellery Designer
- Packaging Designer
- Set Designer
- Surface Designer
- Stylist
- Teacher
- Textile Artist
- Visual Merchandiser
- Wallpaper Designer

## Successful Textiles / Fashion students...



Are dedicated – they spend a lot of time on the subject between lessons.

Are highly creative and not afraid to make mistakes – they are willing to try new things, experiment, invent.

Want to discuss their work and progress and take on board advice and suggestions.

Like to be given challenges.

Teach themselves new skills – by watching youtube videos or other research methods.

Are focussed and hard working in class – they don't get behind.

Have a high level of skill consistently across their work.

Bring equipment with them and source appropriate and specific materials.



Always submit work on, or before, deadlines.

Make the effort to keep finding fresh inspiration so they don't run out of ideas.

Work to concepts and focussed themes – often underpinned with research and reading.

Practise their skills and commit to learning.

Check things they don't understand.



### Textile Task To Try....

Even if you have a plain piece of fabric, a needle and some thread you can produce beautiful detailed and skilful textile art by 'drawing with thread'. Look at <https://honestlywtf.com/diy/diy-doodle-embroidered-sweatshirt/> or the work of Sheena Liam or Constance Posey in Instagram or Pinterest for inspiration!

Using a sharp pencil lightly draw out an image or pattern on to fabric. You can do this from imagination or by tracing. If you trace try doing it by putting an image up to the window with your fabric on top or by using an image on your phone and turning the brightness right up. Once on your image is on fabric use a running stitch, back stitch or play around with the length and spacing of different stitched to 'draw' your image with thread.

You can look up these stitches and even how to thread a needle on Youtube – Good Luck! Emma



## Places To Visit

MMU School of Art  
The Whitworth Gallery  
Manchester Gallery  
Platt Hall Costume Museum  
Manchester Museum



Great Northern Craft Fair (October: Manchester)  
Fashion Museum Courses, Workshops, Exhibitions: (London)  
Clothes Show (Exhibitions, Workshops, Catwalk Shows: Birmingham, Liverpool)  
The Craft Centre (Exhibitions, Workshops, Artists: Northern Quarter, Manchester)  
Graduate Fashion Week (June: London)  
The Knitting and Stitching Show (Exhibitions, Demonstrations: Harrogate, London)  
The Antique and Vintage Textile Fair (Stalls, Demonstrations, April: Platt Fields)  
Fred Aldos (Workshops, Haberdashery: Northern Quarter, Manchester)  
Stitched Up (Workshops, Haberdashery: Chorlton)

## Websites / Blogs

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/eking0528/> XavTextiles' Pinterest boards – sign up and start pinning!

<https://www.textileartist.org/>

[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk) – The V&A (look up Fashion, Jewellery, Costume etc.)

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/fashion-innovation> (free on-line courses)

<https://lauraapriljayne.wordpress.com/2011/04/19/sketchbook/> (blog)

<http://www.alicefox.co.uk/> (blog/artist website)

<https://anialeike.wordpress.com/sleep-paralysis-graduate-collection-2011/>

<https://art-opology.blogspot.co.uk>

<https://hellofashionblog.com>

If you have any further suggestions to share please let me know so I can add them to the list.

Emma

