

Transition to A Level Art (OCR H600–H606)

Summer Preparation Guide for GCSE Art Students

Welcome to A Level Art at CCHSG

Congratulations on choosing to continue your artistic journey at A Level. The transition from GCSE to A Level Art is exciting, but it also brings a shift in expectations. Your work will become more independent, conceptual, and personally driven.

The OCR A Level Art specification (H600–H606) focuses on:

- Personal investigation and sustained projects
- Development of ideas through contextual research
- Experimentation with materials, processes, and techniques
- Critical understanding of artists and visual culture

At A Level, you are not just producing outcomes—you are developing as a thinking artist.

How to Arrive A Level Ready

1. Keep Creating Regularly

Aim to create work 2–3 times per week throughout the summer.

Maintain a sketchbook or visual journal and draw from direct observation.

2. Visit Galleries & Exhibitions

Experiencing art in person is essential.

Visit Major London Galleries and Museums:

Tate Modern, Tate Britain, National Gallery, National Portrait Gallery,

Saatchi Gallery, Whitechapel Gallery, Serpentine Galleries, Hayward Gallery

Museums:

V&A, British Museum, Imperial War Museum

Local: Firstsite Colchester, The Minories, Fitzwilliam Museum, Norwich Castle, Turner

Contemporary Spaces:

Camden Arts Centre, South London Gallery, Studio Voltaire, Gasworks

Outdoor:

Sculpture parks, street art (Shoreditch), public installations

Virtual:

Tate, Google Arts & Culture

3. Develop Contextual Understanding

Consider what art is in 2026 and how artists explore identity, culture and technology.

Reading List:

Ways of Seeing – John Berger

The Art Book – Phaidon

Isms – Stephen Little

The Shock of the New – Robert Hughes

Seven Days in the Art World – Sarah Thornton

Art Now – Uta Grosenick

Websites:

Tate, Google Arts & Culture, The Art Story, V&A

Suggested Drawing Tasks (OPTIONAL)

1. Observational study (2+ hours)
2. Personal space drawing of choice
3. Mixed media experiment
4. Artist-inspired response
5. Conceptual piece (identity, memory, change)

Final Advice:

Be curious, take risks, think independently, and question what art is.

We look forward to seeing your work in September! Mrs Saunders and Mrs Crozier