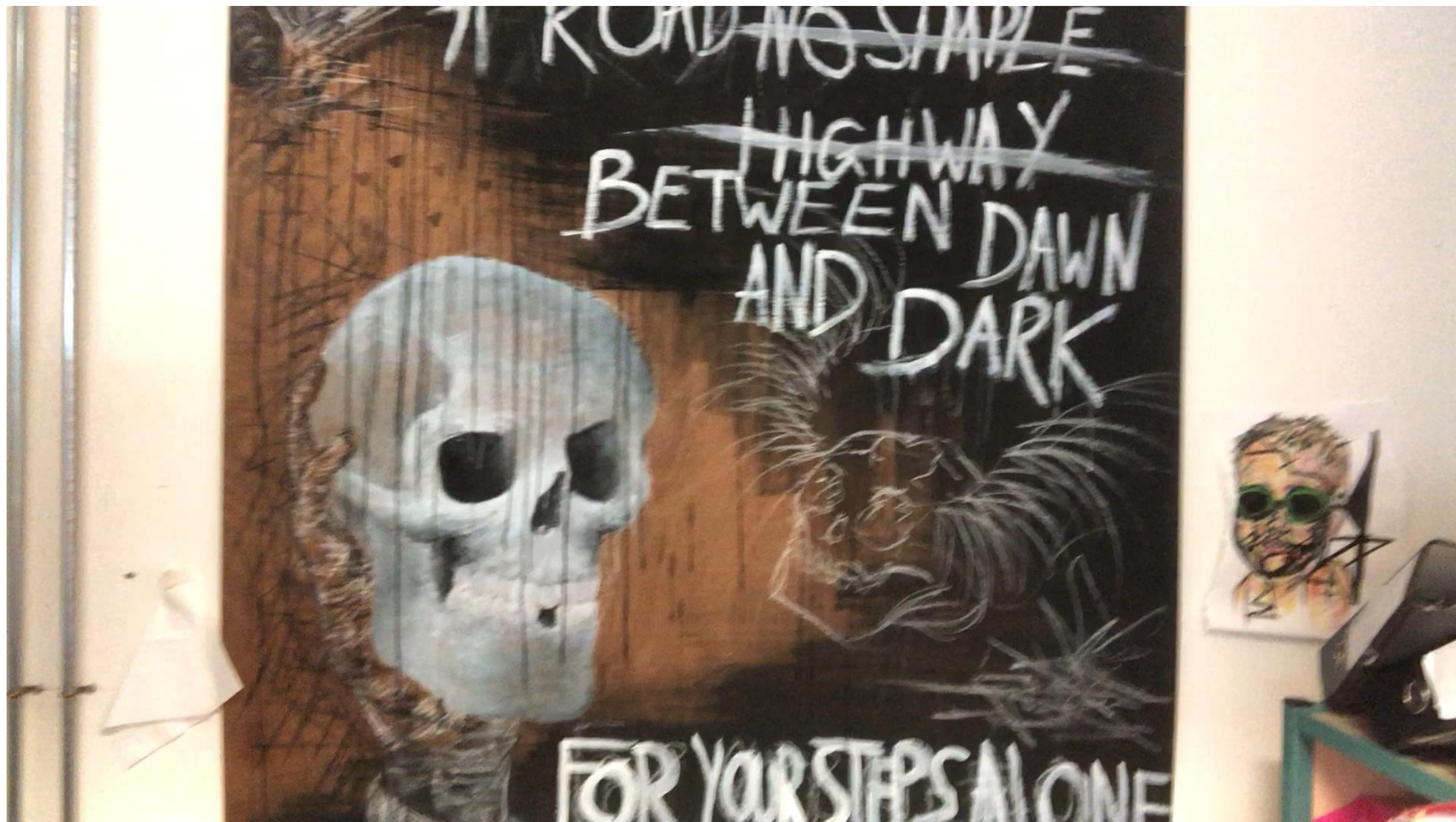


# BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Art & Design

Please view the attached video and following  
5 slides of the course information.

Many Thanks

Mr. Miranda



**Some excerpts from our students.**  
**I will forward their full case studies to you all and your parents on Class Charts**

**Student 1.**

I chose A'level Art as I always knew it would definitely be an option for me. After GCSE Art, I knew A 'level would be completely different. It is certainly more independent and the freedom you get allows you to develop ideas and designs more. Everybody in your art class becomes friends and help each other with different creative ideas.

I took Law and Literature as well as Art. Due to Art being more creative it gives me a chance to come and sit in the art room and do any work I have to do. Having my own art pod has definitely helped me get essays for other subjects done as can sit alone and get things done. Similarly, my art pod is a way of laying out all my work, acting as a mood board for whatever project I'm doing. It's a positive balance between academic and creative that I wouldn't have any other way.

A'level Art is so new compared to GCSE. There are so many new techniques I've learned such as wire sculptures and different ways to use paint as well as multiple different prints. The most challenging thing it trying to get it right, which takes a few tries but even if you don't get it right, those samples can be used as experimental work.

Art is a step up from GCSE meaning its more challenging. But your classmates and Mr Miranda always help to take the edge of the best they can. Someone is always there to help you if you need it. Mr Miranda always gives you creative ideas and pushes you to be a better artist.

A'level Art was a huge factor for me when applying for university. I've applied to do Interior Architecture at Salford which for any art based or media course all unis ask for a portfolio. Art 100% helped me to create that portfolio as I had work from two years I could add and talk about in interviews. The portfolio lowered my entry grades, which I can only thank the art course.

## **Student 2**

I attended Altrincham College throughout my high school years, when looking at sixth forms and colleges I decided I 100% wanted a change of environment and a chance to meet new people. So initially I applied to South Trafford College and was accepted a place. I started studying A'level courses there for a couple of weeks. By reflection on my decision, I made the choice that actually, I don't think college is right for me. I personally much prefer to work in a smaller class environment, I just find it more comfortable, and having a well known place filled with familiar faces gave me a great sense of comfort. In all honesty I missed Altrincham College. Within a week I was attending Altrincham College Sixth form. I chose to study Psychology, English language and Art & Design.

Even when I was at Trafford I was studying an Art and Design course. I loved it. I remember about this time last year (whilst I was still debating on which place I wanted to study) I was choosing between doing Art or Fashion A'level (At GCSE I studied Art Textiles which made my knowledge and passion for both subjects grow).

In the end I chose Art and Design, and I have absolutely no regrets. Mr Miranda already knew I had a background of textiles, and had seen some of my previous work. As soon as I began attending his lessons it was like I had never been away, and he welcomed me into the classroom with open arms, getting me involved with practical work

## **Student 3.**

One of the main reasons I chose Art to do at A'level was because one of my regrets from GCSE'S is not doing art as an options. I believe art is an amazing. A'level to do because other A'level options are sometimes stressful because of the workload.

The other A'levels I chose to do alongside art were Business and Media, they are stressful because the workload can be overwhelming, I feel like Art is a good balance with my other subjects because It lets us relax and gives us creative freedom. If you haven't done the subject at GCSE you can also take it at A'level.

**Student 4.**

I knew that Altrincham College specialised in its Art department and as soon as I came to the open evening and got a feel of the classroom and the teacher I knew I wanted to take this course. The creativity around the classroom is such an inspiring environment to work in. Having your own 'pod' (your own working space) solidified my decision to join this course as I knew I would have independence and be able to have my own space to tap into my creativity. I've loved art since I was very young so to be provided the environment where my love for art can flourish is really great.

It is a lovely balance alongside other subjects, I take sociology and media so having art as my third subject allows me to have some downtime with music, a hot drink and my artwork.

The opportunities that can come from having an Art A-level is great, so many different jobs that Art would be perfect for. This course also gives you the opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and create some pieces that you normally wouldn't feel comfortable doing or wouldn't think of!

Mr Miranda's main aim every lesson is to help each student as much as possible and to reach their full potential. I always feel comfortable asking for guidance and that is so important especially in an art teacher where creativity and group discussions are important.

In relation to applying for university, this course allows you to gain so many skills therefore will help you massively when doing a university course. This course allows you to find your confidence and find your strong points which will be useful when taking this to the next level in a university.

Overall, this course is my favourite A-level, from brainstorming ideas with the whole class to independent work, I thoroughly enjoy every lesson and would encourage anyone to take this course.

# Course Summary

The course is equivalent to 1 A' Level and all units are all practical apart from unit 2 which has a small written element on artists.

## Course outline.

You will do 4 units over the 2 years .

Unit 1 Visual Recording in Art and Design

Unit 2 - Critical and contextual Studies in Art and Design

Unit 3 - The Creative Process

Unit 12 – Fine Art Materials, Techniques and Processes.



# Finally

Remember taking this subject alongside other subjects is fantastic for your mental health, allows you to have a balanced curriculum and is really looked on favourably when applying for University and other careers.

Please contact me at [rma@altrinchamcollege.com](mailto:rma@altrinchamcollege.com)  
Mr. M.