

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Textile Design

Q 1. What GCSE subjects do I need to study Textile Design?

If you have studied Art, Textiles, Design Technology, Graphics, Photography or any other art-based subject then you would need to have gained a grade 5 or above.

Q 2. Is this a fashion course? Will I learn how to make clothes?

The official title of the course is Textile Design. However, the majority of students taking the course have a strong interest in fashion so many opportunities are provided to produce work of this nature. Students with more of an interest in textiles, art or interiors can equally develop work toward these kinds of outcomes.

Q 3. Can I study Textile Design if I haven't got a GCSE in an art-based subject?

Yes, it is possible, but we would like to see some examples of your work. These can be textile samples that you have made from watching online tutorials or surface pattern design ideas created through painting/collage/mark-making. You should bring these examples with you when you come enrol at the start of the year.

Q 4. Do I need to have done textiles before? Do I need to know how to use a sewing machine?

Experience in textiles is not required before starting the course; basic technical skills are taught in the first term. It is more important that you have experience in art and design, or are at least open to working in an art and design manner as opposed to technology.

Q 5. If I study Textile Design what could I then go on to study at University and beyond?

After studying Textile Design at Loreto students often progress to onto courses and careers including Fashion Design, Textile Design, Fine Art, Fashion Marketing, Fashion Journalism, Fashion Business,



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Costume Design, Media, Photography, Dentistry and Medicine (studying textiles demonstrates fine-motor skills required for medical courses). Even English, History and Politics are popular progressions! (The research, contextual and conceptual aspects of the textiles course compliment these subjects well.)

Q 6. Is the course an A Level? Does the course have an exam?

The course is a full A level studied over two years alongside two other A Level courses. It is 100% course work. You will have to sit a 15-hour exam at the end of your second year, but this is a practical exam.

Q 7. What do you do on the course?

In Lower sixth, you will learn a wide range of techniques and processes including machine and hand embroidery, printing, dyeing, fabric manipulation and digital patterning in response to different set themes. Following this, you will begin a Personal Investigation project developed from your own lines of research and inquiry which is worth 60% of your total A Level mark. The majority of this project is practical, but you are also required to complete a 1000 – 3000 word written study. The final stage of the course is your Externally Set Assignment worth 40% of your total A Level mark which requires you to sit a 15-hour practical exam following a period of research and development.

Q 8. How many students are in a class?

This varies from year to year, but currently class sizes range between 15 – 20 students.

Q 9. What other subjects could I study alongside Textile Design?

Students aiming for a career in art and design industries usually study a second art subject to build a stronger portfolio for university interviews; fine art, photography, 3D design and graphic communication. Other popular pairings include English, Media, Film, Business, Biology and Chemistry.

