



The Ecclesbourne School Sixth Form

Textile Design

A level- Subject information



Subject Overview

Students work towards an Art and Design A' level specialising in Textile design.

Learners can work creatively within the following area(s) of study, such as: • Garments/Fashion • Accessories • Soft furnishings • Printed and/or dyed textiles • Constructed textiles • Textile installation • Expressive textiles • Digital textiles.

The course of study is made up of two components: a Personal investigation (60%) and an Externally set task (40%). The Personal investigation has two integrated elements: a portfolio of practical work and a related study which explores the context in which their chosen practical area of study exists.

Learners choose their own context for the Personal investigation and are given a choice of themes for the Externally set task, culminating in a 15-hour practical, creating a final piece.

You will start your personal investigation in January 2026.

kgoddard@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk
vwindle@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk



Summer holiday preparatory work:

We will begin with the theme of '*Seascapes*'
(including aspects of sea and landscapes)

Responding to this theme:

1. Take **photographs** which depict your interpretation of this theme. If able to, please print on photographic paper- matt or gloss. This is primary research.
2. Create a **mind map** on this theme or consider how you could present your ideas in a new and innovative way.
3. Create a **Pinterest** account specifically for your inspiration or create a series of new boards on an existing account.
4. Experiment with a **mood board** on Canva.
5. **Purchase a sketchbook**- I recommend A3 size, landscape or portrait or a similar sized square format with a good weight of paper around 170-220gsm.
6. Sketch out ideas for a **skirt** or **trousers** which link to your **research**
7. **Artist and Designer research – See next page**



A huge part of the Textiles course is researching **Artists** and **Designers** and using them as inspiration for your own work. This first project will be skills based and you will practise sketchbook work and produce a final outcome as a result of your research.

A great starting point for your research can be found here;

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

Visits to galleries and exhibitions are also a great way to get inspiration.

Suggested textile artists to research

**Carolyn Saxby
Julia Crook
Kellen Meyer
Alison Whateley**

Suggested Fashion Designers to research

**Elie Saab
Iris Van Herpen
Alexander McQueen
Gianni Versace**

You may also find artists and designers in addition to the ones suggested.