



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.



16 October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Subject: GCSE Fine Art & Photography – Key dates

We would like to share some key information with you regarding GCSE Fine Art and GCSE Photography:

The current coursework project that students are working on is worth 60% of their GCSE. The deadline for submission of this project is the first lesson back, after the Christmas holiday.

To further support the completion of this project, students have a **mock exam** on the days shown below and teachers have been advising students on how best to prepare:

GCSE Fine Art: Monday 9 November, all day with breaks as normal

GCSE Photography: Tuesday 10 November, all day with breaks as normal

Following the mock exam, students will receive individual feedback with targets on how they can improve their projects before submitting after the Christmas holiday.

After submission, students may make further refinements during the 'Open House' support sessions that the art department run on Tuesdays after school and any lunchtime. They can continue to do this until the Easter holidays.

Externally Set Assignment (Project set by the exam board, AQA)

The exam project is worth 40% of the overall GCSE. An exam paper with a choice of starting points will be issued to students in the first lesson after the Christmas holiday. All lessons and home learning time after this will focus on the exam project. The exam project culminates with two days under controlled exam conditions. The exact dates for the two exam days will be published later in the year, but they will be scheduled for after the Easter holidays and run in the same way as the mock exam days so students will be well prepared for them.

In order to achieve the best possible grade, students should aim to spend a minimum of 1 hour per week on independent study outside of their usual lessons. Success in coursework subjects depends on developing work consistently, meeting deadlines, responding to feedback and working independently, much like a creative practitioner.

Additional support is available in AT2/AT3 at break and lunchtimes, Tuesday Open House sessions until 5pm and Graphics support on Friday lunchtime.

If your son/daughter has any concerns about their progress or meeting deadlines, please encourage them to speak to a member of the Art Department as soon as possible and we will be happy to offer our advice and support.

Kind regards
The Art Department

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