What do you particularly enjoy about studying this subject?

I particularly enjoy the fashion side of textiles, where you research existing fashion designers and collections in order to inspire your own clothing designs and illustrations to present in your portfolio. We then develop these designs and choose the best one to create for our practical work.

How much work is involved? (hours in lessons / outside of lessons)

We currently have two-hour sessions twice a week in class however you need to dedicate extra time outside of lessons to make sure all your work is full developed and well presented. The sewing and print rooms are really useful for finishing off any practical work during your free periods and you can also use the college computer areas or log on to Carmel connect to complete any digital editing from home.

If you studied the subject at GCSE how different is studying it at A Level/BTEC Level 3?

I studied textiles at GCSE level, however I have preferred studying it more at A-level because you have so much more independence which allows you to be a lot more creative with your designs and project as a whole. Studying textiles at GCSE was useful for my practical work because I already knew how to use some of the textiles techniques and work the sewing machines but you definitely don’t need to have studied textiles previously to study it at A level, as your tutor will go over all the basics when you start your practical work anyway.
How are you assessed and how regularly?

Our full portfolio is assessed every half term but we submit sections of our work weekly. Tutors give verbal feedback in one to one discussions as well as providing an ‘action plan’ where you receive a mark and an effort grade as well as ideas for how you could develop your work which you can use in class if you get stuck. You can also check on the textiles section of ‘Connect’ for the checklist which is updated regularly with the submission dates to make sure you don’t forget to include any work or fall behind.

What support have you received and is support available if you don’t understand something?

If you are struggling with something you can always ask your subject tutor for guidance, either in class or by email, and they will explain the task again for you or help you think of some new ideas or ways to develop your project. You can also look on Carmel Connect for good examples of other people’s work as well as accessing any PowerPoints discussed in class. Pinterest is really useful too as you can look through your tutor’s Pinterest boards or make your own boards for extra inspiration.

Have you received careers support and what are your future plans?

My personal and subject tutors have been really helpful with my careers support. I was unsure about what subject I wanted to study and what university I wanted to go to, however my tutors made me feel a lot more comfortable and showed me some really helpful websites that I could use to research and compare different universities and subjects. They also supported me when writing my personal statement and my Textiles tutor helped me create a portfolio of my work to use in my university interviews. I am now planning to study Fashion Marketing at university with the aim of working for a fashion brand or marketing agency in the future.

Visit our website for more information about our A Level Fashion & Textile Design course