What do you particularly enjoy about studying this subject?

I enjoy the creative freedom Graphic Design offers to students, for example during the second year of the course students can choose their own topic for their personal investigation. I particularly enjoyed this aspect as it allowed me to specialise in magazines which is something I am passionate about. This encouraged self-expression and creativity.

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

In lesson time we have 4 hours of teaching a week and the recommended number of hours outside of lessons is 5 hours every week. Generally, the workload is reasonable, although work outside of lesson is essential to achieve high grades but if you have a passion for Graphics and Art this should not be a problem. Teachers are also very supportive and work closely with students to ensure that they stay on track and the workload does not become overwhelming.

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

I studied Graphic Design at GCSE which helped prepare me for my A levels by introducing me to the basic techniques and skills of the different components of Graphic Design. It also prepared me for the workload that comes with coursework-based subjects such as how to create a portfolio which helped me stay organised when making the jump from GCSE to A Level. However, the A Level, while requiring those basic building blocks which I developed at GCSE, provided a much more in-depth exploration into the subject which, while challenging, was also very interesting and inspiring. However, I would add that even if you hadn’t done the GCSE, the first year of the A Level teaches lots of these key skills again and as long as you have passion and commitment to the subject you will do well.

How are you assessed and how regularly?

Throughout the first year of Graphic Design, we are given a variety of assessments that test our abilities and skills and provide daily feedback. Similarly, students in year 2 receive daily reviews but with less assessments and larger projects. Teachers ensure that students are informed of their current proficiency level and how to develop it.
What support have you received and is support available if you don't understand something?

Both Graphic Design Teachers are extremely helpful and supportive of their students throughout the course. Assistance is given to students who are potentially falling behind and the teachers are very friendly, making it simple to approach them. The teachers also provide an enjoyable, creative environment to motivate their students and create an overall positive atmosphere.

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

We have received career support, including discussions of possible university courses/apprenticeships that we are interested in. In addition, the college has set up Zoom meetings with university lecturers to discuss their courses and what they involve. This has been immensely helpful in determining what will be the right fit for our post-college plans, which is normally a very stressful decision. I am aiming for an A* in Graphic Design which will help me get a place at one of the best Art Universities in the world, University of The Arts London.