HAMPSTEAD
FINE ARTS
COLLEGE

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"Pupils are highly independent, self-motivated learners, who respond with enthusiasm to the excellent teaching and the stress on individuality." (ISI Inspection, 2020)

Welcome

Hampstead Fine Arts was founded in 1978 as a specialist college of creative and academic arts and humanities. We believe in achievement through encouragement with a focus on each student's individual talents and aspirations. Classes are no larger than 12 at GCSE and average 8 at A level. This helps students to achieve excellent examination results and to gain places at outstanding universities and higher education colleges.

All subjects are taught by tutors who have a genuine love of their subject, which they want to impart to their students. Our aim is to inspire a passion for learning that will last a lifetime and continue to enrich beyond formal exams.

We encourage an atmosphere of mutual respect in which an individual's talents and ambitions are supported and developed. We see the College as a unique bridge between school and Higher Education.



CANDIDA CAVE
PRINCIPAL



EMMY SCHWIETERS
HEAD

Why choose Fine Arts?

We have a distinctive educational ethos within a welcoming, collaborative College. We know our students as individuals which is particularly important in encouraging and supporting them. We closely monitor progress and encourage self-discipline and self-motivation: the informal nature of relationships between staff and students strengthens high expectations and a rigorous approach to work. Lessons challenge students to engage in discussion and debate so they become inquiring critical thinkers and independent learners.

Students have a Personal Tutor who monitors their progress in all subjects helped by fortnightly reports from subject tutors. These are discussed in weekly tutorial sessions. The Personal Tutor looks after the welfare of their students and reports any concerns to our strong pastoral team, led by the Deputy Head Pastoral.

The College is in an ideal environment in Englands Lane, a relaxed setting for students to socialise with its abundance of cafes and restaurants. We are a short walk from Belsize Park, Chalk Farm and Swiss Cottage underground stations, with easy access to London's museums, galleries and theatres.

'Pupils were fulsome in their praise for the liberal ethos of the college, which they say has quietly guided them to more positive attitudes, because they felt they can now 'be themselves' and discover their individual interests and talents.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

The College

A-LEVEL

We offer over 20 A-level subjects with no restriction on combinations if subjects are chosen before the timetable is completed in the May prior to each academic year. This allows students to pursue a programme of study suited to their skills, interests, university entrance and future career.

Most students follow a two-year course of 3 or 4 subjects, Some specialise by combining a group of similar creative subjects, for example Performing Arts with dance, drama and music, or Art and Design with fine art, graphic design, photography & fashion/textiles.

Personal Tutors advise on higher education options and applications, which are overseen by the Director of Careers and her team of university and art school specialists. They monitor individual personal statements and offer advice once A-level results are released in August. If a student has narrowly missed a conditional offer they help the student to liaise with the relevant educational institution. This can make a vital difference in achieving a place at a sought-after university or art college.



'Study skills within the classroom are excellent: pupils engage in a mature, thoughtful and analytical manner. Pupils show strong ability to work independently. Pupils take ownership of learning and time and have high aspirations of success.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

'Pupils are excellent, confident and fluent communicators, with command of a wide range of vocabulary for their age. Pupils are constantly being asked to reflect on their work, are always challenging, questioning and debating points, expressing these with tolerance. Pupils have a profound understanding of the value of the decisions they make for their future and show excellent decision-making skills.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)



A-LEVEL INTENSIVE

We run specialist, fast-track one-year A-level courses which are ideal for able students capable of meeting the demanding academic challenge.

These courses are especially suitable for:

- Students who have previously studied other A-levels, Pre-U, IB, or similar examinations.
- International students who have completed their high school education abroad and require A-levels for British or American university entrance.

Our class size encourages maximum learning, engagement and communication. Our tutors are highly experienced and able to run the courses at a challenging pace. Tutors are thus able to give students individual attention and professional guidance.

THE EPQ

The Extended Project Qualification is offered to all students in addition to A-levels. The EPQ enables students to research a subject of choice in depth. It prepares students for independent learning at university and carries UCAS points, which may give the edge on other applicants. A high grade in an EPQ can mean that a university may make offers with gentler A grade requirements.

Academic Tracking

We have rigorous systems of tracking students' performance, overseen by the Deputy Head Academic.

• Fortnightly reports are written by subject tutors on each student. Grades are given for homework and effort.
• Personal Tutor sessions are held once a week in an hour-long group timetabled session. Each fortnight the Personal Tutor goes through subject reports with individual students.
• Subject tutors carry out regular tests with the marks recorded in the fortnightly reports.
• Spreadsheets are compiled of homework grades and test results so that progress can be tracked.

'Pupils actively engage in developing knowledge, gaining strong levels of subject understanding. Challenging, engaging and well-paced teaching prompts excellent motivation and response, with mature, yet robust classroom discussion.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)



Craig Winchcombe, Deputy Head (Academic), is responsible for academic tracking at A-level



Portfolio Course in Art & Design

Our Portfolio Course provides post-A-level students with excellent technical training as well as the opportunity to develop individual creativity and experimentation.

The course prepares students for both a foundation course at art school and admission to a degree course at university. Areas of study available include painting, drawing, printmaking, architectural study, graphics, fashion & textiles, photography, and contextual studies.

We create an individual programme for each student dependent on their interests and requirements.



'Pupil progress over time is excellent, as seen in portfolios, and in work on display.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

Careers & Destinations

Nearly all students progress to higher education either at top academic institutions or leading art colleges. We host regular talks on higher education options and future careers. We advise and help students complete their university and art school applications for institutions in the UK, Europe, US, Canada, and Australia.

Hampstead Fine Arts became part of Dukes Education in 2015, and our students benefit from careers advice from Dukes Education's team of Oxbridge and US admissions specialists. Students who wish to follow academic courses are regularly accepted to study at Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, LSE, King's College, the Courtauld Institute, St Andrews, Edinburgh, York, Bristol, and Leeds. The most popular destinations for our art students are Central Saint Martins, London College of Fashion, Camberwell, and Kingston. Our leading American destinations are Parsons, Pratt, NYU, and Cal Arts.

Students flourish in future careers in film, fine art, fashion, creative writing, the media, and academia, amongst others. Whatever HFAC students go on to do, an education at Fine Arts College provides a strong foundation for forging a distinctive career in a changing and competitive world.



Margaret Park,
Director of Careers

'The vast majority of pupils successfully gain places at the universities and or colleges of their choice, principally in the fields of arts and humanities. This is due to a combination of factors: excellent, highly skilled and specialised teaching, highly motivated attitudes to learning and well-targeted preparation.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

Extra-Curricular Activities

'Pupil have high levels of self-esteem and self-confidence, reflecting the College's focus on developing these qualities. Excellent resources and teaching expertise allow these pupils to flourish.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

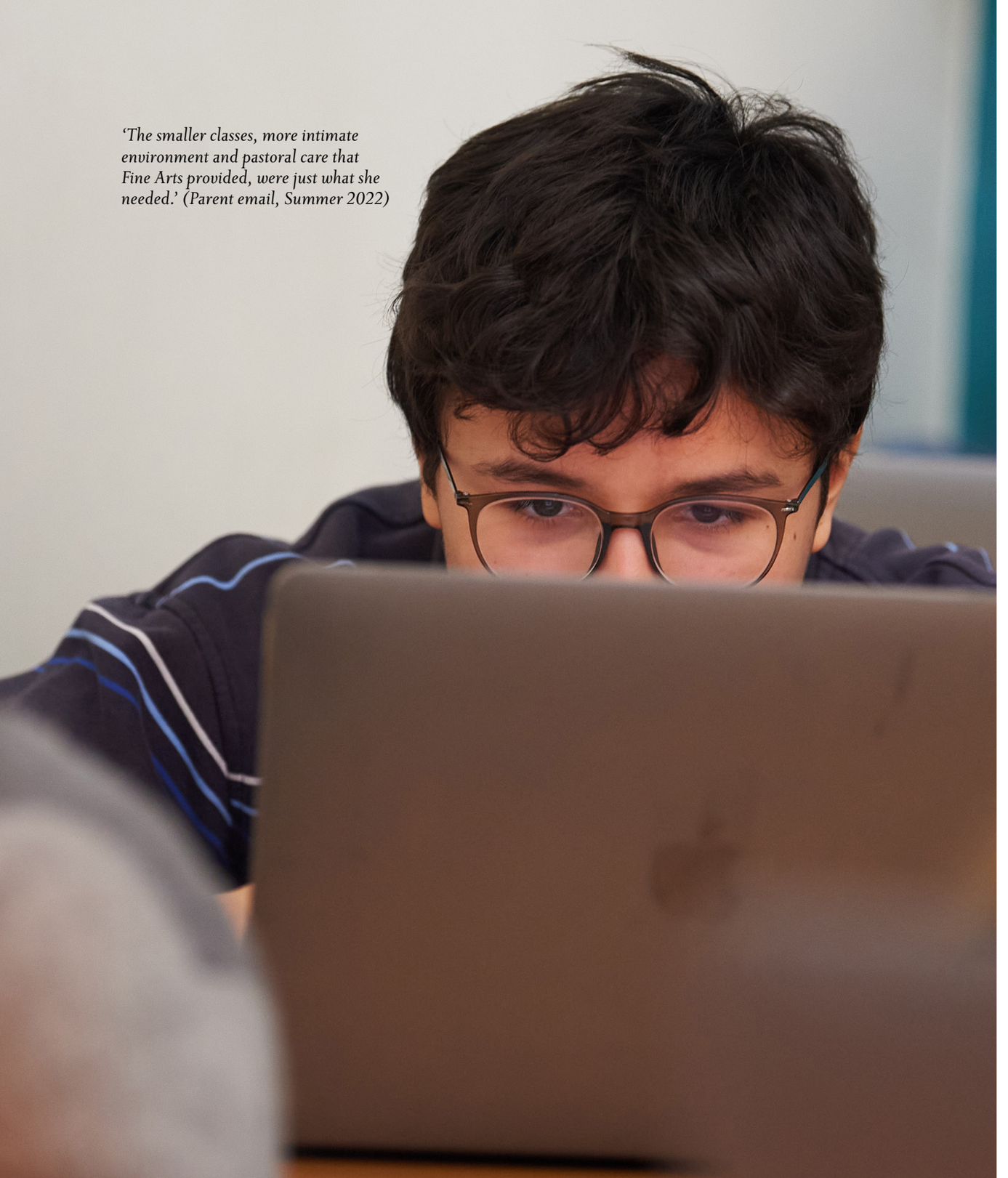
We have a rich programme of extra-curricular activities at Fine Arts, designed to foster critical sense, personal growth, and cultural and political awareness.

Weekly talks hosted by external speakers, alumni, and staff members offer students exceptional opportunities to broaden their knowledge and interests. Social clubs are as diverse as Football, Feminism and Debating, Drama, and Music.

Throughout the year, outings are made to London galleries, theatres, concerts, film centres, libraries, and gardens, with many international study trips to cities including Berlin, Florence, Paris, and Vienna.

Each year we host dramatic and musical recitals and have a festival of short films, which together with our annual art exhibition, enable us to showcase student work at a professional standard.





'The smaller classes, more intimate environment and pastoral care that Fine Arts provided, were just what she needed.' (Parent email, Summer 2022)

GCSE

Students take up to ten subjects over one or two years. Beyond the academic, the College fosters personal development through a rounded PSHCE course, a changing programme of weekly afternoon sports, and talks by outside speakers. All students see a Personal Tutor each week to monitor academic progress and address any concerns.

GCSE INTENSIVE

This course is specifically designed for students joining in year 11. The number of subjects taken will depend on how much the pupil has achieved before joining us. All students take English Language, Mathematics, and Biology GCSE, alongside three to five additional subjects.

Emphasis is placed on essay-writing skills, and examination time management. We have regular testing and a full mock examination week at the end of January.

Pastoral Care

Fine Arts fosters personal development through the General Studies course, talks from numerous outside speakers including lawyers, members of the police, specialists in health and nutrition, well-being, personal development, internet safety, and substance abuse.

We run weekly afternoon sports and activities, including football and netball, as well as individual activities like yoga and personal training.

Throughout the college, pupils are offered tuition in drama, music, and singing by professional experts, enabling them to take LAMDA and Guildhall examinations.

We live in a very exciting capital city and we help our students to discover and make the most of it with visits to galleries, museums, theatre, and musical events.



Julie Cope,
Deputy Head of Pastoral Care

'Pupils new to the school respond well to the colleges more liberal approaches to learning, quickly overcoming any previous negative attitudes to school.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

Admissions

Fine Arts College admits students with a wide range of academic abilities. Our aim is to nurture talent in all its forms. We pride ourselves on a record of helping students to succeed regardless of their previous experiences of education.

Admissions are based on the following criteria:
•A-level: an interview with the Principal, satisfactory GCSE results, and a satisfactory reference from a previous school.
•GCSE: a successful interview with the Principal and an academic reference from a previous school.
• Portfolio Course: an interview with the Principal and a portfolio assessment by the art department.

The College also has a small number of scholarships and bursaries available for full and partial remission of tuition fees, which can be applied for through the Admissions Office.

Our Admissions Officer, Meena Sharma, will provide all applicants with the personal advice they need to successfully complete the application. All prospective students are advised to begin their application through a conversation with her.

Meena Sharma
Director of Admissions





Contact & Location

We are delighted to have prospective students and their parents visit us in order to view the college, talk to teachers and explore whether Fine Arts is right for them. To do so, please call or email to make an appointment.

FINE ARTS COLLEGE

Centre Studios
41 – 43 England's Lane
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mail@hampsteadfinearts.com
hampsteadfinearts.com

We are situated close to Swiss Cottage (Jubilee Line) and Belsize Park (Northern Line) underground stations.

'The culture of the college is a liberal one emphasising tolerance and support for individuality. A major factor in this is the bonds of trust created though warm and supportive relationships between teachers and pupils.' (ISI Inspection, 2020)

'Thank you to all her tutors and support staff who've always guided her and given her support and encouragement. We are so glad she chose Fine Arts college, the knowledge and experience gained throughout her time at Fine Arts has been invaluable' (Parent email, 2022)

'Thank you for the key role you have played. Thank you for the support and gentle nudging and encouragement you have given him. But crucially I would like to thank you for the respect you showed him and for treating him like a young man. This was exactly what he needed' (Parent email, 2022)

'Trust, respect, independence, collaboration, kindness. My wee girl is headstrong, kind, creative and clever. You provide the perfect environment for her to grow and flourish. I know I am too close but others have commented on how happy she seems. I just wanted to say thank you for providing a great learning environment, fantastic teachers and people.' (Parent email, 2022)