

Studying Art at the Latymer Sixth Form

At Latymer, the emphasis within our Art department is to provide all students with a broad and balanced programme of study. We are a dynamic and progressive department with a strong shared ethos. We work as a team, whilst using the expertise of individuals to provide flexibility and a range of skills.

We want to develop creative and independent learning environment. The department is committed to the substantial use of external learning resources: visits to galleries and museums, art study trips, workshops and artists expertise.

Art education has the central aim of extending our students' experience and opportunity. Involvement with the Arts can extend and deepen the capacity to learn about oneself: it can give increased perceptiveness and insight about every aspect of life and the world around us.

We seek to achieve this in enabling students to respond imaginatively in situations that are open-ended and in which thinking is of a divergent character. We feel our open door policy welcomes this opportunity.

Ms C Sanger
Head of Department



Grayson Perry

"My job is to notice the things that other people don't notice."

Georgia O'Keeffe

"I found that I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say in any other way - things I had no words for."





El Anatsui

"Art is a reflection on life. Life isn't something we can cut and fix. It's always in a state of flux."

Kazuyo Sejima

"As an architect, I feel it is part of our profession to use space as a medium to express our thoughts."



Why should I take A Level Art?

Because studying Art is incredibly interesting and enjoyable! This eclectic course allows you the capacity and individualism to explore wider themes at great depth, fostering a strong sense of critical thinking and creative freedom. As Jessica Minto, a recent former student wrote, “In a constantly evolving world, success in any field requires creative thinking and challenging the status-quo, and Art A level really nurtured that way of thinking for me”. Students are often wonderfully surprised how the skills they learn in Art can translate to all other departments of their studies and future life.

A level Art is academically rigorous, but allows you to work on your own projects and portfolio, deepen your capacity to learn about yourself through individual expression, learn pivotal skills that will undoubtedly stand you in good stead in future life whilst still being a fulfilling and rewarding subject that will ensure you become a more well-rounded individual.

Here are what some current students have to say about it:

- “It is just as important to have creativity as physical activity in the curriculum, and the Art department is the ultimate expression of that. The amazing staff and supportive environment allows for expressive freedom that makes the school worth attending.”
- “The Art department has such a calm and welcoming environment, it’s such a fun environment to be in and the teachers all encourage the most fun and experimentative things to do.”
- “I am allowed and encouraged to explore whatever interests me and I am introduced to new concepts and mediums all the time. We are given freedom but also support.”
- “The Art department is a very supportive and welcoming place and there is also so much freedom.”
- “Art A level at Latymer gives you the freedom to do what you want. All mediums and forms are open to you.”
- “Art is by far the most fun subject and I love it, not even biased because my other subjects are STEM!”

In this leaflet, you will find many more testimonies from Latymer alumni who, despite different careers, all have one thing in common: they all did Art A Level. In these accounts, they reveal what skills they developed and how useful those are in their current life, as well as giving you some top tips. So do what they did – take Art for A level. You won’t regret it!

What you will study in Sixth Form

At A Level you will be able to explore and develop your own individual artistic style. You will be afforded autonomy over the themes you choose, the way you interpret each brief and the way you approach projects.

At Art A Level, there will be two components in each year of study:

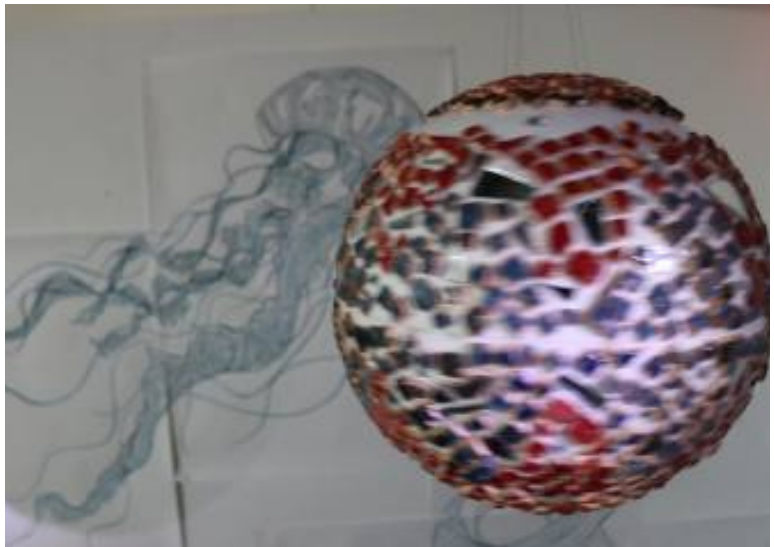
Year 12:

- Portfolio: students work on the theme of 'Space', creating a series of responses to workshops, a large-scale drawing, and a project based on an area of interest.
- Externally-set assignment: students have eight weeks preparation time to work on this assignment before completing a 10-hour exam.

A Level:

- Personal investigation: students must create a project based on their own starting point.
- Externally-set assignment: students have eight weeks preparation time to work on this assignment before completing a 15-hour exam.







Saskia Phokou, Class of 2016
Senior Creative Strategist, Hambi Media



Your top tip
Learning is key - I spent a lot of time studying and searching and watching YouTube videos.
I'd really recommend joining a startup to get as hands on as you can, and stick your oar in on creative input where it can have a massive impact.

What did you study?
I did Art, English Literature and Philosophy A Levels. Then I studied English Literature at The University of Sheffield with a year abroad at The University of Christchurch, New Zealand.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
During lockdown, while still at university, I started a small art business creating commissions and selling through Instagram and Etsy. I found myself as equally drawn to the marketing side as to the creative process itself. Since I couldn't afford a master's degree in marketing, I decided to learn on the job, starting with an apprenticeship at Amazon that allowed me to gain hands-on experience. From there, I was eager to move into a more creatively focused role, which led me into creative strategy - a field I've now been progressing in for the past four years. My Art A Level has been invaluable: it gave me a strong visual foundation and a natural eye for design and composition, which I use daily when developing and shaping static ads and brand visuals. It also taught me how to think conceptually and communicate ideas visually - skills that remain central to my work today.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Learn and absorb as much as you can! The creative thinking is transferable to so many jobs, even if you don't end up directly creating the art yourself.

Hambi Media is a leading independent creative marketing agency. In her role, Saskia leads the development and execution of marketing strategies for paid social campaigns across Instagram and Facebook, helping brands grow and connect with their audiences. She works with some top brands in the UK and the US. Her work involves writing user-generated content ads, working with production teams to create video campaigns, designing static ads with designers, and occasionally directing shoots. She also leads the creative strategy team and assist in her company's business growth.

Arthur Wills, Class of 2021
Recent graduate of Integrated Masters in Liberal Arts



Your top tip

As the rise of AI, misinformation and radicalisation threaten to dissolve much public imagination, the world might be in desperate need of innovators and thoughtful individuals to problem-solve in progressive ways. My pathway is inevitably informed by art, as is my outlook on life, and I hold those values of interhuman communication, negotiation and expression so very dear to my heart!

What did you study?

I did Art, English Literature and Russian A Levels. From 2021 to 2025, I went to the University of Bristol, where I took an Integrated Masters in Liberal Arts course. I was able to study abroad in Mexico City, majoring in Spanish Language and Linguistics.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?

Absolutely! I have always loved art and it has been and will be forever the most important thing in my life. Whilst my degree didn't explicitly focus upon practice as much as applied theory and history of art, I continue to make things whenever possible. Art A Level allowed me to explore fascinating ideas and enjoy the freedom of access to such amazing materials, resources and supervision - and that generosity is definitely something I miss in my adult life now!

One of my greatest regrets is not pursuing a foundation year further - I had the opportunity at Latymer to prepare a portfolio, though I prioritised essay-based subjects to get a place at Bristol. But my current qualification isn’t a waste, as it has been the perfect interdisciplinary mixture of content to complement my creative indecisiveness! All my academic choices have helped to consolidate my integrated understanding of the arts on a wider level and the importance of cross-examination and collaboration across mediums, professions and demographics.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?

It will be a great decision! Do not drop it at AS Level, you will regret it.

Make the most of the tools you have in front of you while they are kindly provided to you for free! Take advantage of the various artistic services, try new types of products like clay sculpture, pottery or darkroom photography and listen to your teachers when they mention Art courses beyond Sixth Form - it is seriously worth thinking about at the time rather than later!

Lucy Molloy, Class of 2011
Senior Market Analyst, Financial Conduct Authority



Your top tip

Understand your skillset, your values and how you like to work - then seek out workplaces that match up with that.

What did you study?
I did Art, Philosophy & Ethics and English Literature A Levels. I then went to the University of Glasgow to study a BA in Politics, and spent a year abroad at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
It has allowed me to relate to a wide range of people in different fields, not just the ones I work in, as well as experience with production and taking an idea through from conception to a final piece. Art has also enabled me to appreciate the culture surrounding the art world and have an understanding of it, an eye for detail and visuals. In my personal life, I understand colour and that certainly helped with decorating my home!

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
It is a challenging and time-consuming subject, and not a 'soft' subject by any means. I spent the most amount of time of any of my A Levels on Art. You might not get the opportunity or realistically pursue the sorts of things you would do as part of an Art A Level at other times in your life. Be aware of the potential downsides from it not being a hobby and being a work focus - is that what you want? But you don't have to put yourself in a box - I did Art A Level and now work in financial services, so most importantly if you enjoy it, then why not?

In her current role, Lucy works on retail bank supervision, consumer investment advice policy. Before that, she worked at the House of Lords (policy analyst and adviser to members of select committees on areas such as Northern Ireland, UK Internal Market post-Brexit, the Equality Act and Disability provisions). She was also the Private Secretary to the Lord Speaker.

Josephine Olayebo, Class of 2020
Assistant Brand Manager, Mace Group



Your top tip

Marketing is a lot of fun! I didn't even know this kind of job existed when I was in school. But like my mum always used to say: Don't worry too much about choosing a job title or career path early on, things change, and new roles are being created all the time. When you follow your interests and build on your skills, you'll find a career that fits. What really matters are the transferable skills you gain and how you learn to apply them. That's especially true in marketing, where people come from all sorts of backgrounds. Your degree doesn't have to define your career!

What did you study?

I did Art, English Literature and Geography A Levels. then I went to the University of Cambridge to study English.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?

I've always considered myself a creative person, but taking Art at A Level taught me to view creativity through a more analytical and critical lens. Although I studied English Literature at university, having an Art A Level helped demonstrate my genuine interest in creativity when applying for jobs. Many roles in the creative industry look for tangible proof of your passion, and this definitely helped me stand out.

I really enjoyed it and that played a big role when I was figuring out what career path to pursue after university. I remembered how much I loved both Art and English, and through conversations with others, marketing was suggested as a natural fit, with the skills I gained in Art being incredibly useful for my current role. While I don't do graphic design, I'm often responsible for creative direction, and having an artistic eye really helps. I also need to communicate my vision clearly to designers, and thanks to my Art A Level, I can speak their language and use the same terminology with ease.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?

Use each project as an opportunity to push the boundaries of your creativity. Unlike some peers who tended to stick to what they were already good at, I made a point of experimenting with a new medium for every assignment. I wouldn't say either is better or worse, but I am glad I did what I did. It not only exposes you to techniques and styles you might enjoy, it also helps you build a broad skill set that can set you apart later on. For example, having developed skills working in both 2D and 3D gives you a distinct advantage over someone who's only ever focused on one format. The more you explore, the more versatile and confident you become.

Adam Stevenson-Emmett, Class of 2018
Freelance Journalist



Your top tip
Read and be creative habitually. It will inspire you and keep your brain active.
Resist using AI at all costs. It will leave you unable to think for yourself.

What A Levels did you take?
Art, English Literature and French.

What did you study after Latymer?
I went to the University of Leeds to study BA History of Art. Following this, I stayed in Leeds to do an MA in the Social History of Art and have since retrained at Birbeck, University of London, taking an MA in Journalism.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
It definitely helped foster my appreciation for the arts, as well as providing me with a skillset which I use on a daily basis. It also helped my critical thinking, something I found to be less pertinent in other subjects.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
The arts are in real trouble at the moment, with funding being redirected towards STEM subjects and with AI threatening many jobs in the sector. It is more important than ever that we have young people getting an education in the arts / humanities, so that we keep society rich and varied. Art enabled me to think critically about the world around me, and the Art department was a real calming place during the stress of A Levels.

Adam has been working as a freelance Journalist (sub-editing, research, press releases, news letters) for a few months after retraining this year. Prior to that, he worked for a children's education charity.

Hannah Meur, Class of 1999
Creative Director, Hannah Meur Design



Your top tip
Do something you love - It leads to a happier life!

What A Levels did you take?
Art, English Literature and Religious Studies.

What did you study after Latymer?
I studied Art Foundation at Middlesex University, and then went on to study Graphic Communication at Loughborough School of Art and Design.

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Most definitely. I had to convince my parents to let me do a creative A Level, they kept saying 'how will you get a job with art'. But it was the best decision I ever made!
At school I thought I would become a sculptor. But at Art Foundation I discovered a love for Graphic Design.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Do it! The world needs creative minds now more than ever and with the way technology is going, there are creative careers which we don't even know exist yet. Art can compliment so many other subjects! If you can't do what you love when you're young, you never will!

Hannah created her own Graphic Design company. She works with growing food and drinks brands, helping them with branding and packaging.

Yasmin Satter, Class of 2020
Studying an MA in Architecture, Manchester School of Architecture



What A Levels did you take?
Art, Economics and Maths.

What did you study after Latymer?
I first studied a BA Architecture at the University of Westminster. I then went to the Manchester School of Architecture where I am currently studying for an MA in Architecture. Alongside my studies, I have picked up experience working client side for High Speed Rail design in the UK, and design experience working for Fereday Pollard on the London Underground.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
It's a misconception that architecture is about buildings - modern buildings are informed by everything around it, and the research and exploratory skills learnt at A Level are intrinsic to how you properly understand architecture.
Additionally, a wide range of art skills (particularly hand eye coordination, composition, pecha kucha presentations) are important to how you understand your own project and display it to others (like you would as a designer to your client).

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Try everything! Use all the equipment, explore, make, record it all in your sketchbook.
And read loads of books and journals to inform your work from the real world.

Your top tip
For a career like mine, it's important to listen and respond once you've thought very carefully.

Michelle Woolley, Class of 1990
Artist and Administrator at the University of East London



Your top tip
Be prepared to turn your hand to anything.
You are likely to need a supplementary job to keep you afloat through the tough financial time.

What A Levels did you take?
Art, History of Art and English Literature.

If you currently are at or went to university, what did you study and where?
I didn't go to university. Instead I went to Middlesex Polytechnic to do a one year art foundation course, then Wimbledon School of Art where I achieved a first in a BA (Hons) Fine Art Painting (Media Emphasis) and then I did an MA at the RCA in Painting.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Absolutely. I have travelled internationally to exhibit my work!

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Do it. Take it seriously. Work your socks off. If you get to a good art school it will change your life and help you to change lives.

Rose Garrett, Class of 2022
Recent graduate of Anthropology, Durham University



What A Levels did you take?
Art, English Literature and Religious Studies.

What did you study after Latymer?
I went to Durham University where I graduated with a first in BA Anthropology.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Art A Level was my favourite subject by far! Aside from being so enjoyable, it unquestionably enhanced my creativity and independent thinking, giving me the skills to be able to work on projects by myself.

Your top tip
Follow your passion!

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Do it! It is so much fun, and whilst being hard work, it is also incredibly rewarding witnessing your progress throughout a project!

Pawl Fulker, Class of 1990
Senior Visualisation Supervisor, Creative Director/Co-Owner of Proof Inc.



Your top tip
Watch as many films as you can, look at as much art as you can. Most importantly be prepared to fail a lot without becoming despondent and do what brings you joy rather than money. I've done well in life, but I'd still be doing what I'm doing now if I was penniless and it paid next to nothing.

What did you study?
I did Art, Film Studies and Physics A Levels. I then studied Media Production at Bournemouth University, majoring in Computer Animation.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
I use art every day, I draw storyboards and use art in working out how to compose shots. I still paint or draw everyday. Having left university, I became a runner in post production on adverts, and then got a slot as an animator on commercials. I soon went into work for the first Harry Potter film as a visualisation supervisor and stayed on the first four of those, before then setting up my own previs company*.
I've been lucky enough to work on dozens of great projects such as Harry Potter, Marvel and DC films for example, and alongside incredible directors such as Sam Mendes, Patty Jenkins, Joe Wright, and Guy Ritchie to name a few. Art has played a tangible role in this and is as important to my life as food!
I've been a voting member of BAFTA for 20 years and four years ago was invited to join AMPAS so I vote on the Oscars too.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Art is, to me, the most important thing to study. It's life affirming, it's capable of very great things and to overlook it in favour of more academic subjects is missing the point of life!

**Previs is a collaborative process that uses 3D animation software and realtime computer graphics to generate a preliminary version or visual prototype of an idea. It provides a virtual space within which the decision-makers can explore new ideas, plan technical solutions and communicate a shared vision to the entire production team.*

Jessica Minton, Class of 2018
Working abroad before doing final year of Architecture Qualification



Your top tip

If you're interested in architecture, exposure is key. Try to get work experience, talk to people in the industry, read Architects Journal and RIBA journal. There's a whole world of career paths within the construction or design industries that spark off from a BArch in architecture.

What did you study?

I did Art, Maths and Geography A Levels. I then went to the University of Sheffield, where I studied a Bachelor of Architecture degree for three years, before embarking on a Masters in Architecture at Sheffield under the Collaborative Practice Pathway. This two-year course allowed me to study online whilst working at EPR Architects in London before returning to Sheffield as a full-time student. I'm currently on a career break working in a ski resort in Canada, before returning to complete my 7th and final year to be a qualified architect!

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?

Art is extremely useful for studying architecture. At university in Sheffield, we had so much freedom with types of media we could use to produce drawings and models - I was drawing, painting, collaging, using photoshop and 3D architectural modelling software, as well as doing woodwork and joinery. The skills I learnt from Art A Level about communicating my ideas, developing them, presenting them, and working with classmates to help each other with ideas is something architects use every day. It's a very sociable, collaborative course and career.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?

If you enjoy art, 100% choose it! Being at a grammar school like Latymer can make you think that choosing art is 'wasting' one of your options instead of choosing something more 'academic' but it opens up so many doors and shows a great range. In a constantly evolving world, success in any field requires creative thinking and challenging the status-quo, and Art A Level really nurtured that way of thinking for me. It's a subject that requires more independence than others - you're really in charge of the direction your project goes in, and that's great preparation for university and your career. It allowed me to exercise a different part of my brain to other A Levels, and therefore prevented burnout from studying any one subject.

Karen Tulloch, Class of 1986
Second Language Teacher in English



What A Levels did you take?
Art, Economics and French.

How did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Since I have been teaching English, I often use images and drawing to assist my students. Many are visual learners. I am an avid fan of the impressionists especially Monet. Since leaving Latymer, I have painted reproductions to give as gifts and find drawing a great way to relax. I use chalk pastels so everything takes time. This has helped develop a strong sense of patience.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
For those like me who only started in Year 12, it's possible! I got my O Level in Year 12 and my A Level in January of Year 13.
Techniques learnt today may help you later in life, even if art doesn't become your main career choice: small things like decorating your home or office for example!

Reflections from your time at Latymer
I wouldn't be where I am today without the tools I learnt during my Latymer days - aside from working as a teacher, I worked as ground staff at Bordeaux Airport and spent nine years working in the international stock market, with Latymer providing a key starting foundation in my career journey.

Karen lives and works in France.

Georgeena Jose, Class of 2019
Airworthiness Records, EasyJet



Your top tip
Be pro-active and try keep updated on what's going on.

What A Levels did you take?
Art, Maths, Chemistry and Geography.

What did you study after Latymer?
I studied Aviation Management at Coventry University.

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Yes 100%. Art played a key role in helping me be more creative and explore more art-related hobbies.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Take it, as it is definitely an enjoyable subject. It taught me a lot about exploring and experimenting with things and helped me become a more well-rounded person.

Rishi Patel, Class of 2014
Freelance Product Designer



Your top tip

Design has slowly grown to be more valued by businesses for the last 10 years with many companies now asking for design-led founders. Thinking critically and creatively is just as important as someone with a financial background and can be applied to more than you would initially think.

What A Levels did you take?

Art, Maths, Physics and English.

What did you study after Latymer?

I went to the University of Nottingham to study Architecture. This was a great course which taught me the fundamentals of a design process that can be applied to many areas. My course mates went on to a wide range of careers like theatre set design, interior design, illustration etc.

Post university, I began my career working as a graphic designer and transitioned to UX/UI working for agencies and clients before now becoming a director for my own company, focusing on helping companies grow their business through strategic art direction and digital design and working with start ups to take an idea and progress it into a working digital product.

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?

Yes, it was important in applying for university as architecture degrees require a portfolio.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?

Take it! It’s a great A Level to have under your belt and opens up many career options. It’s also nice to balance academic subjects with something more creative.

Kat Pikhartova, Class of 2016
Architectural Assistant in final stages of Architecture Qualification

Your top tip
Stop looking at what people do around you and focus on what makes you happy and what you care about. That's the biggest tip of all, focus on your happiness and your joy. If you don't, architecture will drain you. If you do, you might get to experience that feeling when something you've designed breaks ground and becomes a reality.

What did you study?
I did Art, Maths and History A Levels. I then studied Architecture Part 1 (BSc) at the University of Bath, Architecture Part 2 (MArch) at the Manchester School of Architecture and, currently, Architecture Part 3 at The Bartlett School of Architecture (UCL).

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
As you go through architectural education you realise that the visual is one thing, but the story behind it is what makes the spaces you design really make sense. I always found that Art A Level was trying to get you to find the story in your own visual work and that's what a lot of architectural education is. If there is anything to learn and understand, and you want to go to university to study architecture, it is to learn to design with purpose and apply it at A Level. It will make your start to Architecture a lot easier to navigate.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Art A Level is a beautiful way to learn about yourself and what YOUR creative is. I went into my Art A Level as someone who had very little interest in modern art, and I was frustrated that I just couldn't relate to it, before a Year 12 trip to Barcelona and advice from Mr Bowman helped changed that.
What is wonderful about the teachers at Latymer is that they know when something isn't truly you and never push you to create art without you being immersed in your own process. Art isn't there to add encyclopaedic knowledge into your brain, it's there for you to learn about what you enjoy making, what stimulates your brain, and what processes you want to try out. It's a nice way to zone out a lot of the madness in your life and just do you. I think I carried over more processes from my Art A Level into life than I did both my History and Maths A Levels. Both have helped me a lot, but Art really was about developing my own thoughts over prescribed methods and I think that's been really invaluable.

Kat is currently working at a mid-size Architecture practice, designing buildings within the care and early-education sectors. As we publish this leaflet, she's about to do her final exam and could be changing her job title to 'Architect' in the next few days!

Billy Bartram, Class of 2006
Lead visual designer, BOXT



Your top tip
If you have interests in anything creative, just keep making and learning your craft. I loved drawing when I was at school and although I don't do as much now, it gave me a good foundation for what I do.
Most importantly just try things and enjoy being playful with it - art gives you a license to do whatever you want and if you can pursue it, it's a really great way to work.

What A Levels did you take?
Art, English and Philosophy.

What did you study after Latymer?
I first studied a foundation at the Chelsea College of Arts, and then a BA in Graphic Media design specialising in Illustration at the London College of Communication, with both colleges part of the University of the Arts London.

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Massively! I wouldn't be a designer without doing an Art A level as it gave me a great basis going into my art foundation. My Art teacher really sold art school to me and I am incredibly grateful to him for that.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Art A Level can open up so many different opportunities that I wasn't aware of when I was at school. It's much more than just being good at drawing and if students knew that then they might be more open to taking Art A Level. I think if you're creative and you dabble in different things (whether it's art, music or anything really!), then an Art A Level can give you the knowledge to develop these skills and help you flourish in a vast range of sectors.

Billy is Lead visual designer for BOXT, a home energy solutions company. He previously spent six years at Fever-Tree as the lead designer, also worked in agencies for clients such as Adidas, Fitbit, Unilever and Diageo.

Christine Cook, Class of 1981
Former Physical Therapist

Your top tip

If you are like me when I was at Latymer, you may feel that you haven't found a niche in which you excel. I was a 'jock' (junior international javelin thrower, netball team), and I enjoyed ALL my classes. As a young adult I felt like being a 'jack of all trades' was a liability since I was not a high-level master of any particular one. As a college professor I learned of the Clifton Strengths psychometric tests and found that being an all-rounder was a huge strength. I'd encourage any young person to learn more about their aptitudes and natural strengths to discover the benefits of swimming WITH the stream versus laborious 'correction' of natural tendencies causing you to swim upstream, against the current.

What did you study?

Art, Geography, Biology A levels. After Latymer, I wanted to "see the world" so I attended Texas Woman's University for a bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology and then a Masters in Physical Therapy (PT). I was on scholarship the entire length of my studies (5.5 years in the US system).

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?

Yes! My very successful clinical career relied heavily on my use of visual-spatial and observational skills. The ability to detect asymmetry, and to visualize the human form in a more ideally balanced, proportionate and aligned state, were all essential to my success as a Physical Therapy professional. Being able to picture the layers and structures underlying the skin when treating maladapted joints, and soft tissues is essential for effective intervention for pain, burns, movement disorders and deformity. I believe that the quiet and intense regard used in still-life sketching, clay modeling and painting that I learned in A level Art was instrumental in honing observational and analytical skills that helped me be an effective PT. Now retired, I still use my art skills. I am in a band called *The Unselfish Lovers of the Blues*, and I design and create our advertising materials and fliers for our shows.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?

If you have some aptitude and an enjoyment of any art medium, why not explore it? It will always be at least a joy to you, and possibly a great boon to any career where creativity, awareness of both broad schemas and intricate detail, and reflection on presentation are required. Isn't this most careers?

Christine retired from a 35-year career as a Physical Therapist in the US. Most recently she consulted with an orthopaedic surgical implant company to train surgeons & neurosurgeons on clinical differential diagnosis of lower-back pain.

Derek Lawrence, Class of 1968
Former Head of Planning Services, Maldon District Council



Your top tip

Contact an organisation such as the Royal Town Planning Institute who can provide details on what a town planner does and the route to follow to achieve a formal qualification, as well as the varied jobs that a town planner can be employed in.

What A Levels did you take?
Art and Physics.

What did you do after Latymer?
I joined the London Borough of Enfield as a trainee in the Planning Department and had an interest in what is now termed the built environment. I went on a part-time RICS General Surveying course and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor (MRICS).
I thought I should also obtain a formal planning qualification to progress my career. I enrolled on a part-time Town Planning planning course at the South Bank University, which included social science, geography, history and evolution of town planning and environmental issues. Having obtained my Bachelor of Town Planning, I gained Chartered membership of the Royal Town Planning Institute.
I moved into the private sector working in planning, but later returned to the public sector culminating in managing the town planning service at Maldon District Council with 44 staff dealing with control and management of development, planning policy, planning enforcement and economic development.

Did your Art A Level contribute to your career/life?
Yes, it gave me an interest in the design of development and the effect of development on people's lives.

What would you say to current students considering taking an Art A Level?
Students should also study geography, economics and sociology. There is currently a severe shortage of town planners and this is a very worthwhile and immensely rewarding career to follow!

And finally, some further architectural thoughts from...

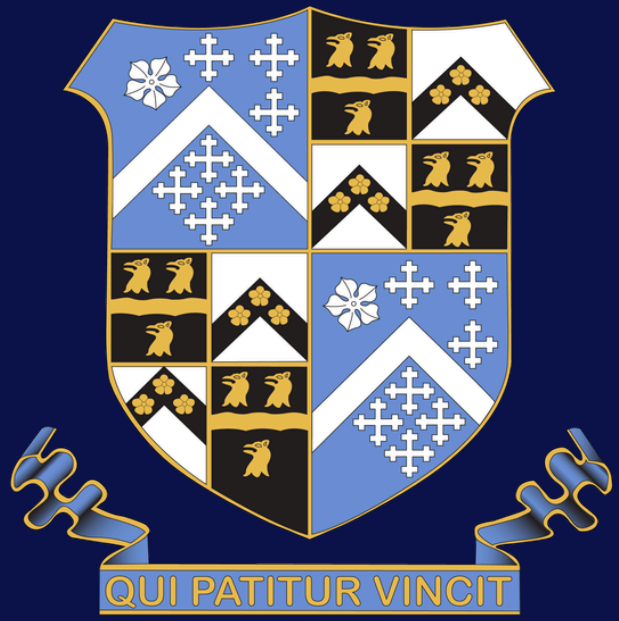
Kat Pikhartova
Architecture is a really difficult career path that can be over glamorised in movies. It is actually a lot of hard work, long hours, sleepless nights, stress, deadlines and needing to understand 100 different things. You have to know how to do technical design, how to write essays and analysis documents, your research skills have to be really solid, you need to know the legal frameworks you work in, how business and finance and insurance and contracts work...

You are entering a field that epitomises the "Jack of all trades, master of none" quote. I wouldn't discourage anyone from pursuing architecture if it's really what your heart is set on but please understand what being an 'Architect' really means. If you know this is the path for you, then enjoy it and really understand that comparison is the thief of joy.

Jessica Minton
If you want to keep your options open for A Levels, do art alongside a science, and even if you know you want to do something in humanities, art will not be a waste of an option if you enjoy it.

The journey to being a qualified architect is very long (minimum seven years) but embarking on an undergraduate degree doesn't mean you're committing to the full process. Many people get their architecture degree and then go into an industry with other pathways, such as sustainability consulting, interior design or engineering. It' is common to do a masters after the undergrad in things like this, or learn and develop as you go. I have friends who are now interior designers, film set designers, online architectural influencers, museum curators, urban planners and UXI Web designers.

The skills are so transferrable - at university I did so much presenting, communicating my ideas, working as a team, as well as creative work, essay writing, engineering projects, building regulations and law studies. It's easily one of the broader degrees you could embark on, despite being a specific vocational subject! The architectural industry really benefits from all-rounders, which I know Latymer is full of!



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