



Crafts Council

Advice on Schools reopening for Art & Design and Design Technology

As schools prepare to reopen in September to full cohorts of students, the Crafts Council team has drawn together advice to support teachers of Art, Craft and Design Technology, based on government guidance, discussions about student and teacher wellbeing and the recovery curriculum. We believe that the delivery of Art, Craft and Design in the classroom is essential for student's reintegration into school and that it plays a pivotal role in the wellbeing of students of all ages.

Curriculum offer:

It has been highlighted that schools are expected to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, including Art, Design and Craft, when they reopen in September—although core subject knowledge should be prioritised and teachers may be asked to deliver core subject content as a cross-curricular activity. A reduced curriculum should only be offered in extreme circumstances. The advice is that no student's future aspirations should be negatively impacted by the shutdowns, including access to creative subjects.¹

Substantial curriculum planning to address gaps in knowledge may be required at the beginning of the school year. This should include planning to re-engage disengaged learners and those reluctant to return to school. We believe Art, Design and Craft is perfectly placed to support students' wellbeing through creative expression as schools reopen. .

The governing body Ofqual is currently consulting on some changes to all examinations for the 20/21 cohort, including suggested changes to Art and Design and Design and Technology KS4 and KS5 examinations. These are as follows:

It has been suggested that GCSE examinations take place in June instead of May.

Art and Design:

There will no externally set task and students will be assessed only on their portfolio work. Digital or photographic moderation will be put in place.

Design and Technology:

Students will be expected to produce a prototype product only, coursework and examinations will take place as normal.

To find out more on the changes to the 2020/21 examinations read the full report [here](#).

¹ You can find full details on these guidelines here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>



Social Distancing:

- It's recommended that Primary and KS3 form class-sized bubbles, taking all of their classes together. However, this should not restrict students from accessing a broad and balanced curriculum. KS4 and KS5 groups can form year group bubbles. Mixing outside of both classroom and year group bubbles are strongly advised against.
- Teachers are discouraged from sharing spaces, including the staffroom and classrooms. However, teachers are permitted to teach across class and year bubbles to facilitate a broad and balanced curriculum. This may require some clever timetabling to ensure that all teachers have access to specialist classrooms that may require a thorough cleaning before use.
- Classrooms should be arranged with forward facing desks and it is recommended that teachers in secondary provision teach from the front of their classrooms. This will diminish the capacity for collaborative group work and may impact how you demonstrate skills and specialist knowledge within the classroom.

Tools and Equipment:

- It has been recommended that the use of shared equipment is avoided. Classroom equipment can be shared within a bubble but will need to be cleaned thoroughly between if shared outside of the bubble.

Student Wellbeing and Mental Health:

Students of all ages are likely to return to school suffering from some form of trauma, from grief through to the impact of isolation from peers and support networks. There is likely to be a requirement of a transition period of mixed or low academic output, to allow students to reengage with classroom-based activities.

The NHS has recommended that students are given space to talk with peers and adults to make sense of the pandemic and its global and local impacts. Chunking of lessons, where short bitesized activities are completed, might help to build resilience. Practical and hands-on activity including Art, Craft and Design are encouraged as a means to process recent events.

Working with other services and parent groups is highly recommended to ensure continued support within the community and home environments. This can include accessing your local [CAMHS services](#), contacting or working with [Place2BE](#), following government guidelines² or accessing resources from groups such as [mind.org](#) and [engagement4learning](#), who champion art therapy in the classroom.

Staff Wellbeing:

As you return to school it is also important to take care of your mental and physical wellbeing. Government data suggests that teachers are at no higher risk than any other profession—although the Crafts Council, acknowledges the increased pressure and uncertainty for all members of school staff as schools reopen and we

² More details can be found here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-mental-health-support-for-pupils-and-teachers>



encourage you to be mindful of the impact and urge you to take care of yourself first and foremost.

School Resources:

The Crafts Council launched a series of teaching resources for distanced learning which can be found [here](#). For further updates and information join our Craft Educators [Facebook](#) group.

Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors:

Thank you to Cox London, our education corporate sponsor, supporting all Crafts Council learning and participation programming. [Cox London](#) are designers and makers of sculptural lighting, furniture and artworks.

"As makers we understand that to make something by hand, from nothing, is a basic human need. We strongly believe, using the head, the heart and the hand to create, nourishes the soul and contributes to our wellbeing. Nobody understands this better than Crafts Council, which is why we wholeheartedly support all their craft education initiatives." Chris Cox, co-founder and creative director of Cox London