

Textiles FAQs

1. Do I need to be good at drawing to take Textiles?

You can develop your confidence in sketching designs as the two-year course progresses. You will use support tools to help you improve your ability and confidence. For example, when sketching fashion drawings, you will use a figure template: this allows you to concentrate on how to draw fashion garments. Every project you do will give you different techniques in order to improve your sketching overall.

2. Do I need to be confident on a sewing machine?

No, you have only studied textiles for half an academic year in Years 7 – 9, so therefore we wouldn't expect you to be fully skilled on the sewing machine. You will have plenty of lesson time to practice a wide range of techniques on the sewing machine before you complete any component work. You also have many more lessons at KS4 (5 over the 2-week timetable) so naturally this will give you the time to practice your skills.

3. Is there an external written exam for Textiles?

No, this is a BTEC subject meaning you will be fully graded on the components you complete in the classroom. Component 3 is externally graded and is therefore done under supervised conditions in class, it is also done over a set amount of time.

4. Is a BTEC qualification as good as a GCSE qualification?

BTEC is a vocational course and therefore prepares you for careers within the Fashion and Textiles industry. We focus more on the practical skills required to be successful. BTEC Tech Award in Art and Design Practice (Textiles) is equivalent to a GCSE, the grading is listed below –

BTEC grading	GCSE equivalent
PASS	4
MERIT	5.5
DISTINCTION	7
DISTINCTION*	8.5

5. Will I have lots of homework in Textiles?

The work you will do at home backs up the work you do in the classroom and is therefore extremely important. If you utilise your lesson time effectively, it takes the pressure off the amount you will need to complete at home. You will be expected to finish sketchbook preparation work and portfolio work as homework. The classroom will be available at lunchtime for you to undertake practical tasks out of lesson time.

6. What higher education and job opportunities will the study of Textiles give me?

Gaining a MERIT at KS4 will allow you to move forward into our sixth form to study A Level Fashion and Textiles. There are many different college and university courses available for whichever area of this subject appeals to you the most. You may enjoy English and therefore a course in fashion journalism might suit, or you may have a love of performing arts so costume design may be an option. You can discover the range of opportunities as you carry out your project work at KS4.

7. What kind of person do I need to be to enjoy Textiles at KS4?

You need to be creative with an interest in fashion and textiles. You need to be willing to explore the wide range of skills required to become a successful designer and maker of products.

8. Who do I need to contact if I want more information on Textiles at KS4?

Miss Brierley is the course leader for Textiles. If you would like further information to work out whether this is the course for you then don't hesitate to email her at bri@titussaltschool.co.uk