

14th March 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Re: OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Art and Design

This year we are introducing **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Art and Design** as an alternative GCSE qualification. The benefits of this qualification are that it is 100% coursework and portfolio based, so it suits students who find examinations challenging. Having carefully considered your daughter's attainment in this subject to date, we recommend that she is best suited to this course to ensure that she achieves a good qualification in Art and Design.

OCN NI

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a regulated Awarding Organisation based in Northern Ireland. OCN NI is regulated by CCEA Regulation to develop and award professional and technical (vocational) qualifications from Entry Level up to and including Level 5 across all sector areas. In addition, OCN NI is regulated by Ofqual to award similar qualification types in England.

Qualification Summary

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Art and Design qualification has been developed to provide learners with an opportunity to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to contribute to art and design activities.

The objectives of the qualification are to enable learners to:

- develop creative, imaginative, and intuitive skills when undertaking art and design activities
- develop practical skills when experimenting/exploring with a broad range of methods and materials

The qualification provides flexibility and choice in the delivery of units and provides learners with the opportunity to specialise in preferred areas of art and design.

Qualification Target Group

These qualifications are targeted at learners who are interested in exploring art, design, and crafts disciplines such as:

- Use Materials to Create and Present Surface
- Painting Techniques - Surface and Form
- Mixed Media Painting Methods
- Making Ceramics
- Project Design

Grading

Grading for this OCN Art & Design qualification is pass/fail. A Pass grade is equivalent to a B grade at GCSE. This is the highest grade to be achieved in this qualification.

Progression

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Art & Design qualification at Grade B will equate to 46 points for admission to Post 16 study in Loreto G.S. As this OCN qualification is continuous assessment based it will not enable progression to Art & Design at A' Level. Level 2 Learners can progress to further Art or Design qualifications and/or further learning in this area or into employment.

Entitlement Framework

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Art & Design has been approved by the Department of Education and added to the NIEFQAN file. Whilst this qualification can be counted as part of a school's 5 GCSEs or equivalent performance measure, it is up to the individual further/higher education establishment or employer to decide whether to accept it as a GCSE equivalent.

If you wish to discuss this further, please contact me by telephoning the school. Having carefully considered the information above, **please fill in the link to the Consent Form below**, indicating your daughter's placement in the **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Art & Design Course** and return to your daughter's Art teacher before Tuesday 21st March 2023.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Joan McGuigan
Head of Art & Design Department

<https://forms.office.com/e/Ku4hzxLkzB>