Shenley Brook End Sixth Form

Summer Transition Tasks

Subject:

Fine Art

Due date:

Monday 7 September 2026

Complete all the assessment tasks and be ready to complete the in-class assessments in your first 3 weeks of term!

Remember – this summer task and knowledge tests will be reported on in your First Progress Report on 6 October 2026

Summer Art Bridging Tasks: GCSE to A-Level Fine Art
Theme: Portraiture

1. Photography Task: "Faces in Everyday Life“

Objective: Build a personal photo reference bank of portraits using a camera or phone.

Timings- 3-4 hours in short bursts. Continue to take photographs.

Task:
•Take at least **15–20 portrait photographs** of different people (family, friends, or even self-portraits).

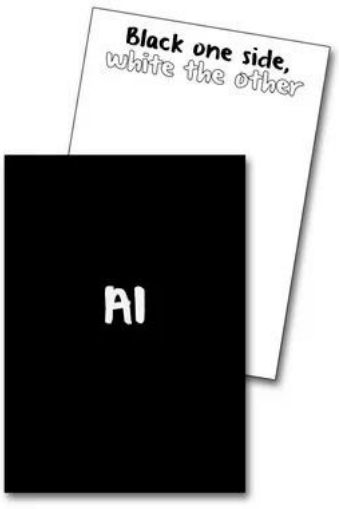
•Use **natural light**, dramatic shadows, reflections, and unusual angles to explore **expression, mood, and character**.

•Experiment with **close-ups**, partial views (just eyes or mouth), and background/environment for context.

•Print your contact sheet and annotate 3–5 of your most successful shots, explaining why you chose them and how they show personality, power or vulnerability.

Extension: Try editing your images using filters or simple digital tools to adjust contrast or tone.

Present your photographs printed out and on a mountboard ready for our first lesson.



2. Tonal Drawing Task: "Study in Shadows“

Objective: Develop observational skills and tonal accuracy.

Timings: 4-6 Hours.

Task:
•Choose one of your photographs (or a cropped section of one) and complete a **realistic tonal pencil drawing** on A4 or A3.

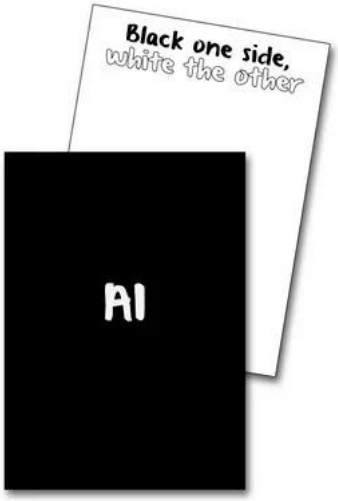
•Focus on **light source**, **shadows**, and **facial form**.

•Use only pencil or graphite, working slowly in layers from dark to light.

•Include a written reflection (100–150 words) explaining the process, what was challenging, and what worked well.

Present your drawing and written reflection on the same A1 mountboard

Challenge: Try a second version using a **different medium**, like charcoal, biro, or chalk on grey paper.



3. Artist Research Task:
"Exploring Colour Through Portraiture – Jordan Casteel"

Objective: Discover how contemporary artists use expressive colour in portraiture.

Timings: Critical Analysis: 2 Hours, Response piece 4-6 hours.

Task:
•Research the work of **Jordan Casteel**, an American painter known for vibrant, expressive portraits of Black individuals from her community.

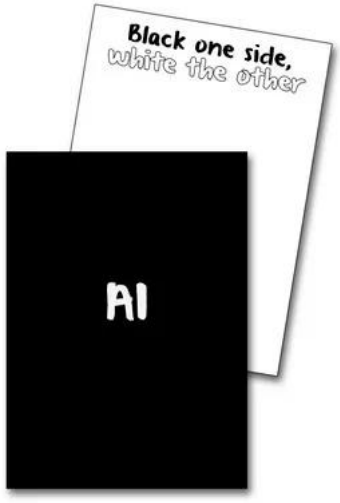
•Select **2 artworks** and write a **comparative analysis** (approx. 300 words total):

- What do you notice about her use of colour?
- How does she portray her subjects – with power, intimacy, or emotion?
- How do her backgrounds contribute to the story?

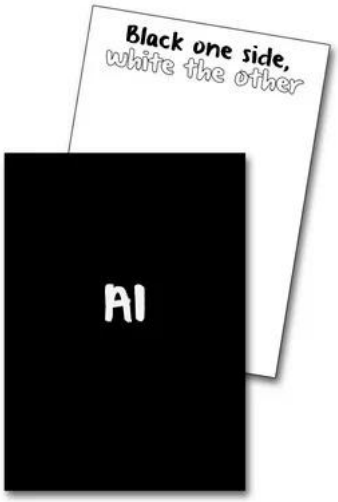
•Create your own **experimental colour portrait** inspired by her work. You can use paints, coloured pencils, or digital art. Use **bold, unexpected colours** to convey character or emotion.

Present all on a new ne A1 Mountboard. X2 in total for all work.

Alternative Artists (optional exploration):
•Amoako Boafo (finger-painted portraits, bold colour fields)
•Jenny Saville (expressive mark-making, fleshy realism)
•Lynette Yiadom-Boakye (imaginary figures, tonal depth, muted colour palettes)



You should have x2 A1 Mountboards of work.
These boards will form part of your Portraiture Project.
You need to have everything completed, printed and mounted for our first day.
Be ready to discuss your work in a group critique session.



A-Level Exam Support / Coursework Help

1.Student Art Guide – https://www.studentartguide.com
Outstanding A-level examples, sketchbook layouts, artist analysis guides, and examiner advice.
2.Pinterest – https://www.pinterest.co.uk
Use responsibly for layout and visual inspiration—ideal for sketchbook pages and media exploration.
3.OCR Art & Design (for your exam board) – https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015/
Direct access to assessment objectives, exemplar material, and past themes.

Artist Research and Discovery

1.Art UK – https://artuk.org
The online home of the UK's public art collections—great for regional artist research.
2.Widewalls – https://www.widewalls.ch
Artist profiles, art movements, and art fair coverage with a contemporary edge.
3.Artsy – https://www.artsy.net
View and learn about modern and contemporary artists, with artworks, bios, and interviews.
4.MoMA Learning – https://www.moma.org/learn/moma_learning
Artist timelines, techniques, and themes explained in a student-friendly way.

Books

"The Art of Drawing People" – Barbara Bradley
"Portrait Drawing" – Wendon Blake
"Vitamin P: New Perspectives in Painting" – Phaidon
"Face to Face: Creative Portrait Photography" – John Batdorff
"Ways of Seeing" – John Berger