



# Lancaster Girls' Grammar School

**Headteacher** Mrs Jackie Cahalin BA NPQH **Deputy Headteachers** Miss Sarah Bellin BEd, Mrs Gill Jackson BA NPQH

8 September 2011

Dear Students and Parents

## **CHANGE OF EXAM BOARD for A level Art from OCR to AQA**

Following a review of exam boards, we have decided to change the exam board we use for Art at A level. Our Year 12 students will be following the AQA specification rather than OCR.

There is little change in the principles that underpin both Exam Boards in the mark allocation and both offer the same subject criteria for A level Art. Both specifications provide candidates with opportunities to develop personal responses to ideas, observations, experiences, environments and cultures in practical, critical and contextual forms. There is the same breakdown of components as OCR: 50% of AS (25% of the A level) for the Coursework Portfolio and 50% for the Externally Set Assignment at AS (25% of the A level). Also at A2 the Personal Investigation is 25% and the Externally Set Assignment is 25% of the A level.

There are a number of reasons why we are making this change. Most schools, including LGGS, follow the AQA GCSE specification, so there will be more uniformity of approach.

A major advantage is that AQA has standardisation meetings in December, when teachers are given clear samples of candidates work and shown what is expected for the various grades for the June outcome. We can then share this with our students which will be extremely helpful. We also feel the AQA exam board is far more flexible in the externally set Assignment at AS with the 5 hour exam session, which is a development of an idea enabling the students to complete the final piece in their own time. We feel the previous system of a 5 hour final exam has penalised some of our students who need more time.

My apologies for this late notification and change to the published information in the prospectus. I am confident that the AQA specification will help all our students achieve at a very high level.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs Campbell*

Head of Art