

CALLIGRAPHY 6-Week Course

Fridays: 9 December to 13 January

Benefits of doing Calligraphy:

Aside from being a beautiful form of art and writing, Calligraphy is an excellent way to improve your fine motor skills. As we age our motor skills decrease, unless we keep our muscles toned. Fine motor skills are essential for all tasks that we use our hands for, and by learning a craft such as calligraphy we engage and exercise our hand muscles.

In this 6-week Course:

You will be introduced to the skill of Calligraphy – what it entails, how to do it, and what tools you will need to be able to create beautiful manuscripts in lettering of your choice.

What you will need for these classes:

- A **Calligraphy pen with a broad flexible nib**. A photo of suitable pens is included in the resources on the next page.
- Smooth paper that is lightweight and non-absorbent (ordinary photocopy paper is fine for practicing)
- Writing guides (included in the resources on the next page) – to be printed out so that you can place these guides underneath your sheets of writing paper
- For classes 5 & 6, a **calligraphy pen**, dip pen or fountain pen with a flexible, pointed nib
- Indian or permanent ink if using a dip-pen. Information about ink can be found on the Jackson's Art website here: <https://www.jacksonsart.com/blog/2021/11/22/a-guide-to-inks/>

Resources (following pages):

1. Recommended Calligraphy Pens (*Fig. 1*) & Nibs (*Fig. 2*)
2. Glossary of Terms
3. Writing Guides (2 pages)

What we will be covering during the 6-week programme:

Week 1 – Fri. 9 Dec: *Introduction to Calligraphy; Using Different Types of Calligraphy Pens; Understanding Different Kinds of Ink; Paper/Surface Options; Pen Strokes and Pressure; Foundational Hand*

Week 2 – Fri. 16 Dec: *Practising Pen Strokes and Pressure; Foundational Italic Hand & Swash Variations*

Week 3 – Fri. 23 Dec: *Caroline and Free Caroline Hand*

Week 4 – Fri. 30 Dec: *Secretary Hand and Flourishes*

Week 5 – Fri. 6 Jan: *Copperplate Hand; Using a Dip Pen or a Fountain Pen*

Week 6 – Fri. 13 Jan: *Eastern and Gothic Hand; Introduction to Brush Techniques and Eastern Brushstrokes*

Resources:

1. Recommended Calligraphy Pens and Nibs:

Fig. 1: Suitable Calligraphy Pens



Fig. 2: Suitable Nibs (close-up)



2. Glossary of Terms:

Calligraphy: The art of fine writing

Flourish: Decoration of letters, usually by the addition of sweeping strokes

Illumination: Decoration of text of a manuscript (or letters or words) with gold, silver or coloured ink

Manuscript: A book or document in any kind of hand writing, as opposed to print

Versal: A word drawn with an illuminated first letter or paragraph initial

Parts of the letters:

- Majuscules – “capital” letters
- Minuscules – “small” letters
- Ascenders – parts of the letters above the main writing line: h, l, k, etc.
- Descenders – parts of the letters below the main writing line: g, y, p, etc.
- Stroke – any mark made with the pen
- Hairline – the thinnest stroke made with the pen
- Serif – small strokes added to the letters
- Counter – the inside of a letter

Letter proportion and guide lines:

- Baseline – the writing line
- X-height – the height of the minuscules without ascenders or descenders
- Waist line – the top of the x-height from the baseline
- Ascender line – marks the top of the ascenders
- Descender line – marks the bottom of the descenders

3. Writing Guide 1:

The page contains 12 rows of handwriting practice lines. Each row is defined by three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are overlaid on a background grid of small squares, with vertical lines spaced evenly across the page.

Broad Nibs • Vertical Letters

