

YEAR 12 VISUAL ART  
**BODY OF WORK**

# Artist Statement

## NAME

*Nathan Halward*

## TITLE

*Nightmares of the Incurable*

## MATERIALS

*Spray paint and mixed media on wooden panel*

In my Body of Work, Nightmares of the Incurable, I explore my personal experience with recurring glandular fever and chronic fatigue, showing my physical and mental deterioration and recovery over a two-year period, depicted as a nightmare that envelops the sleeping centre figure. I use hand-cut stencils, spray paint, paintings and screen-printed paste-ups to imitate the neglected nature of street art and graffiti, representing how I felt during my prolonged sickness. The artwork is portrayed in a timeline from left to right, showing the emotions felt during my pre-diagnosis, post-diagnosis, the process of recovery and post-recovery of glandular fever. Significant events, like my initial diagnosis and point of recovery, are embodied by Hypos (Greek God of sleep) and Apollo (Greek God of healing) as my seemingly uncontrollable sickness felt like it was being orchestrated by the divine.

The striking colours amidst the dark period of the artwork convey the physical struggle, anguish and depressive episodes I often experienced in repetitive, bedridden days. Through the repeating imagery of skulls, skeletons and coffins, I draw parallels between being isolated in a state of limbo within the confines of my room and the eternal sleep of death. The duality of angels and devils is also explored in my piece to represent the paradoxical nature of sleep; although resting was meant to help my glandular fever, ultimately sleep made it worse. My slow route to recovery is symbolised by the overwhelming pills and acupuncture that marked a turning point for my health. Through the layers of impactful imagery in Nightmares of the Incurable, I hope to portray my journey with chronic fatigue, depicting the chaos and confusion felt at the time.