What I use.

When you start out you may not want to spend too much but when you know you love painting, it’s quality over quantity every time. Nothing is more depressing than a new student turning up with their bodyweight in paint they bought for £1 and some photocopy paper!

I know they’ll struggle with their materials and could be put off for life.

Having said that, good students’ paints are a really great way to kick off your artistic journey.

My basic kit

Can we talk about papers a minute?

There are 2 kinds of watercolour paper – rag and wood pulp.

I’m going to come out and say ‘Rag is fab!’

It’s just the biz! You can whack down a gash of Ultramarine on a rag paper and then on a wood pulp paper and they look like two different beasts!

True – rag is a bit more expensive but have a go on both and try for yourself.

So, you get 90lb, 140lb, 200lb plus weight papers in both types.

And you get HP (hot pressed), Cold Pressed (NOT), and Rough (rough), in both rag and wood pulp papers.

90lb papers will need stretching if you’re going to get them very wet.

140 lb papers and upwards can take more water without buckling too badly.

The heavier the paper the less they distort.

Pads of paper come in lots of sizes and can be ring bound, glued on one edge or in a block (where you peel the top sheet off once it’s dry.)

All these papers come in sheets which are 22 x 30 inches and cost anything from about £4.00 to lots!

Hot pressed is smooth and great for line and wash and hard edged work.

NOT or cold pressed is a good middle paper for all sorts of painting.

Rough is lovely for landscapes and texture.

I could go on but I can see you sneaking off!

140lb weight NOT surface rag paper

(Wood pulp papers are OK too, and cheaper).

Backing board

Low tack masking tape

Brushes –

Terry Harrison Golden Foliage

Daler Rowney Petit Gris No. 4

Graduate Medium Rigger

1” Hake

Scraggy small decorating brush

Paints -

Daler Rowney Artists’ tubes

Basic selection-

Cadmium Yellow, Cadmium Red

Ultramarine, Paynes Grey

Extras -

Alizarin Crimson, Burnt Sienna

Sap Green, Ultramarine

Prussian Blue, Burnt Umber

Raw Sienna, Transparent Turquoise

(Coz I love it!)

Anything Quinacridone!