

A Level Photography

Examination board & syllabus: AQA (Photography endorsement)

Minimum Entry Requirements: 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 including English Language Grade 4/5

Portfolio of Photographs is required

Course Outline:

The course provides students with an exciting balance of creative skills and technical knowledge relating to photography. Emphasis is placed on the design and the development of creative images and ideas and students will explore many directions in contemporary photography. Both digital and wet technologies are used to produce photography based on personal ideas and enthusiasms. There will be the opportunity to visit exhibitions and undertake a variety of photographic work of the landscape, both rural and urban.

Course Structure:

The course covers the following areas:

Portraiture	Fashion photography
Landscape (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)	Experimental photography
Still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)	Photographic installation
Documentary photography, photojournalism	Moving image (video, film, animation)

There may also be the opportunity to link photographic projects to other courses such as music, art, drama and dance.

Assessment:

Students are assessed through a coursework portfolio, combined with externally set controlled assignments.

Exams:

In February of year 12 there will be an internal trial exam; this trial exam will coach students through the exam process in preparation for the final year 13 A level exam. The final exam constitutes 40% of the final mark at A Level and will take 15 hours to complete. Students will spend six intensive weeks preparing for the trial and final exam.

Equipment required / Approx Cost:

A3 Sketchbook, mounting equipment, digital camera, access to a colour printer.

Independent Study Tips:

Put in a minimum of five hours per week of independent study.

Higher Education Progression:

At present most students wishing to take photography will go on to do a one year 'Foundation' course at an art college or college of further education before applying to degree courses in more specialist areas of art and design.

Photography allows progression into a wide range of careers in the field of photography, in disciplines such as architecture, advertising and promotions, studio portraiture, photo journalism, environmental photography, fashion photography, police and forensic photography, magazine layout and advertising, web design and surveying.

Useful websites: www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk www.magnumphotos.com