



A-Level Photography

AQA: Course Code 7206 C/X

Contact: Mrs H Lee/Mrs A Ashby

Course Outline:

This course is structured with a strong emphasis on personal enquiry and expression, involving the selection and manipulation of images. Students will be required to develop creative approaches that go beyond observation and recording.

During the first year students will learn about the basic principals of photography. They will learn traditional darkroom techniques as well as digital photography and manipulation. Using this knowledge they will investigate, explore and develop their own visual language demonstrating skilful use of the formal elements, which are line, tone, colour, form, shape, pattern, texture and structure. Students will carry out research and use this to inform the development of their ideas.

The second year of the course incorporates two linked elements:

- a) Personal Study
- b) Exam work

The Personal Study will provide opportunities for students to pursue their own visual ideas in an area of photography that is of interest to them, building on their knowledge, skills and understanding gained from Year 12. The personal study will be the focus for the contextual analysis, this will be used to inform and inspire the students own creative visual ideas. Your Personal Study will be a written submission consisting of 1000 to 3000 words and will serve as a reflection of your studies.

During both years of the course students receive information from which they must research and resource their ideas in response to the set theme and aim to build on previous experience to produce their own creative outcomes.

Assessment Framework:

Assessment will be two units in total, one coursework unit and one exam (called the Externally-Set Assignment, or ESA).

All two submitted units will be assessed using the Assessment Objectives outlined by AQA. Coursework will make of 60% of your mark, while your ESA will be 40%.

The Personal Study will also have separate marking criteria for their 1,000-3,000 word essay.

Course Entry Requirements:

GCSE Photography grade 6 or Art grade 6

If not studied Photography/Art previously at GCSE – students must show a creative Photography portfolio to the equivalent standard.

Why Study A-Level Photography?

Photography leads directly onto university courses such as: Fine Art, Photography, Graphics, Animation and Media/Film Studies. Beyond university career alternatives include film and television, travel documentary, photojournalism, advertising and packaging. Outside these direct career routes photography skills could be helpful in, environmental work, scientific research, business, marketing, town planning, education or hospitality.