

	PHOTOGRAPHY	
	Qualification Level	A-Level
	Exam Board/ Syllabus	AQA
Contact(s)	Ms Turton	

Expectations

- Students will need to buy materials for this course
- Students will also need to make visits to galleries/current exhibitions
- Practical courses are time consuming and students will need to be committed.
- We expect at least 4 hours or more independent study time per week, including photo shoots.

It is essential to have your own digital camera (preferably a DSLR) and access to a 35mm film camera.

Course content/Assessment Pattern/ Structure

Photography will enable students to record and document the visual world through the use of lens based media. The specialism allows access to a full range of photographic experiences from experimental printing to use of digital imaging. During the first six months of the course, the students will produce a portfolio of work based on a series of activities and workshops, including advanced camera skills, studio lighting, traditional darkroom techniques and Photoshop skills. These skills will be developed through studying a range of themes and the work of well-known photographers. A work journal will form a mandatory part of the course and assessment. It will be used by students to collect, select and sort images and materials, to record observations, develop ideas and organise a range of visual evidence – in other words a vital tool for supporting and developing the artistic process. Whilst students are expected to produce work of sound technical expertise, it will not be at the expense of developing sensitivity towards the creative potential of the medium and the imaginative application of such imagery. It is important that students explore social, cultural and critical issues, especially in relation to popular culture and mass media. On completion of the Portfolio Project, the students will then start researching a chosen area of study for the A-Level qualification. This will start just before the Easter break of year 12.

Component 1-Personal Investigation- 60% of the total A-Level

This is practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome. The written element is usually in the form of a research/evaluative statement/response between 1000 & 3000 words of continuous prose.

Component 2- Externally set assignment- 40% of the total A-Level

Students are required to select one from 8 given questions to be used as a starting point. Following a preparation period, they must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised work.

Skills and Techniques

- an appreciation of different approaches to recording images, ie observation, analysis, expression and imagination;
- an understanding of conventions of figurative/representational and abstract/non-representational imagery/ genres;
- appreciation of different ways of working, such as using digital and computer software to enhance and develop ideas;
- an understanding of pictorial space, composition, rhythm, scale and structure;
- an appreciation of colour, tone, texture, shape and form.

Knowledge and Understanding

- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts created in the context of their chosen area(s) of study within Photography;
- the historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres in their chosen area of Photography;
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created;
- continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to Photography;
- the working vocabulary and specialist terminology which is relevant to their chosen area(s) of Photography.

Higher/Further Education & Career Links

An A-Level qualification in Photography is part of an acceptable entry requirement to most University or College courses. If you are thinking of pursuing any creative career, whether visual or a business/marketing career then Photography can help you to pursue this.

<i>Business & Innovation</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Expressive Arts & Languages</i>	<i>Humanities</i>	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Science</i>
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