

Course Title: GCSE Photography

Awarding Body: OCR

Further information available from: Mrs Van Daalen

The course offers students a wide range of creative and exciting opportunities to explore Photography through a variety of media with reference to contemporary photographic and artistic practice.

This is a new course built off the very successful A-level Photography course with high pass rates. It links well to the Fine Art course and lays strong foundations for post-16 students studying either Art or Photography.

Students considering Photography at GCSE should have a real interest in both Art and Photography. They should be motivated and prepared to work hard independently, supporting class work with up to 1 hour of extracurricular study each week.

The coursework portfolio is worth 60% of their final mark and an externally set portfolio task at the end of their second year worth 40% of the overall mark. Both the coursework and exam are marked using the same assessment objectives.

AO1: (25%) Photographer INSPIRATION ideas through research and appropriate responses

AO2: (25%) Media EXPERIMENTATION with, and select, appropriate materials

AO3: (25%) Considered CREATION ideas and observations through photography and video

AO4: (25%) Informed OUTCOME a final outcome developed from work produced throughout the portfolio development.

Coursework Portfolio

For this, students produce a body of work that often takes the form of a sketchbook and digital portfolio. They explore an idea or theme developing work in a way that reflects their personal interests or strengths until they reach a final outcome. Work produced should satisfy the Assessment Objectives above and demonstrate that they have researched and responded to photographers relevant to their theme, experimented with different media, recorded relevant images and objects through analysis and photography and then produced a relevant final piece.

Controlled Assignment

The exam takes the same form as the coursework. Students will be issued with an early release paper in January from which they will select a title/starting point to develop ideas from. They will have time to produce preparation work that satisfies the first 3 AO's (just as they have done for their coursework) before they begin their exam outcome piece. This preparatory work is worth approximately 30% of the 40% of marks awarded for the exam. The exam outcome piece is produced in 11 hours under examination conditions, typically split into sittings of up to 5 hours. The focus in the exam is to produce a final outcome that satisfies AO4. Exams are likely to begin towards the middle of April and finish in the middle of May, although exact timings may vary. Coursework deadlines will coincide with final exam deadlines. Students have the opportunity to work in an increasingly independent way. They will explore ideas by looking at and responding to contemporary Photographers, recording and experimenting in a variety of exciting and innovative ways.

Photography careers

The course is structured to provide students with the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, explore an exciting range of contemporary Photographers and express their own ideas. It is an excellent grounding for further study of art, design or photography or a career in any of the creative industries. It also develops good transferable skills including problem solving, researching, and creative thinking.