

PHOTOGRAPHY A Level

Course outline:

Do you want to communicate in a visual and creative way? This course will make you confident with film and digital photography. Experimentation is encouraged through practical lessons and gallery visits. Digital sketchbooks are used to record ideas and other artists work. Knowledge of photography is not essential, nor owning your own camera, just a passion for making your own images!

The photography department provides most of the equipment necessary. We expect all students to have their own digital camera. However this can be a digital compact camera. It does not need to be an expensive DSLR. You will also require an SD card or another type of storage device.

Course structure:

Year 1

Coursework Portfolio development will cover:

- Exploration of techniques including: using cameras, developing film, printing using chemicals in the darkroom
- Digital image composition, manipulation and printing
- Traditional and digital sketchbook development
- Independent research and visual awareness
- Research into Photographers and Artists
- Development of considered approaches to being creative
- Written discussion and exposition
- Planning, preparation and realisation of a project from given titles
- How students determine individual directions and choices of media
- Document research and creative processes
- Produce final pieces during mock exam conditions for end of year exhibition

Year 2 - A-Level

Personal Investigation will cover:

- Students making own choices of creative direction
- Making more considered and polished photography
- Work on larger scales
- Produce one major project
- Support Project with research into artists and an extended essay in the form of a Related Study that forms 20% of the A-Level grade
- Planning and preparation in creative and inventive ways
- Use a broad range of approaches which then focus into a final major piece worth 60% of A-Level grade

Externally Set Task

- Final major piece responding to set titles produced in 15 hour exam, worth 40% of final A-Level grade
- Extend skills and continue to develop professionally

Examination Board:

OCR

Duration:

A-Level – Two years

Minimum entry requirements:

- Five GCSEs at Grades 4 – 9.
- Creative Portfolio for interview.

Possible combinations:

- A-Level Art and Design – Art and/or Graphics
- A-Level Media Studies
- Film Studies

Plus more academic subjects

Enrichment opportunities:

- All students have access to our enrichment programme including: developing Photoshop skills, darkroom techniques and Printmaking
- Regular trips to galleries as well as foreign trips and London visits

Likely next step opportunities:

- For art students, to foundation and degree courses at art colleges
- Other Higher Education courses

Assessment summary:

The Personal Investigation and Externally Set Task are internally assessed and moderated before being externally moderated to verify marks.

If your answer is 'yes' to each of these questions, then this is the course for you!

- Do you like being creative and inventive?
- Are you interested in capturing images and photographs of different things?
- Are you open minded and imaginative?