

A Level Photography

What is A Level Photography?

Photography is the study of lens-based media and techniques. It is primarily concerned with light and how light can be manipulated to create imagery. On the course we cover everything from Victorian camera-less photography to the latest in digital manipulation software.

Why study A Level Photography?

We live in an age in which we are bombarded by imagery on a daily basis. With more than 4 billion photographs taken each year, it is estimated that we now produce more images every two minutes than were taken in the entire 19th century. Whether through advertising, journalism or social media, these images are created to impact upon the way we think and act. This course allows students to better understand how such images are made as well as the ideas and motivations behind them.

What makes a successful A Level Photography student?

Successful students are creative, full of ideas and initiative, with strong independent learning skills. The course is extremely time-consuming and requires real dedication and motivation.

To study this course, what qualifications will I need and in which subjects?

It is expected that students embarking on this course will have achieved GCSE Art and Design at a minimum grade 5. We will consider applicants with a grade 4, or those that have not studied Art & design at GCSE, but they will need to produce a portfolio of work demonstrating their suitability for the course.

What is the structure of the course?

A level Qualification
<p>Component 1 – September of Yr12 – January of Yr13</p> <p>During the first term, students will be introduced to numerous new techniques including cyanotypes, photograms, processing film, developing prints in the school's darkroom, long and short exposure, small depth of field, portrait photography (Inc. the use of studio lighting) and photographing on location. Students will be given the opportunity to develop their own ideas through a more in-depth project based around a work of literature of their choosing.</p> <p>Students will then begin an extended project which involves the analysis of, and responding to, the work of a chosen photographer. As well as producing a body of their own work, students will also produce a 'Personal Study' (a 3,000 word essay) in which they analyse the visual qualities and concepts behind the work of other photographers as well as making links to their own practical work.</p>
Assessment – coursework = 60% marks
<p>Component 2 – February – May of Year 13</p> <p>An Externally Set Assignment which allows students to use the skills acquired in Component 1 to develop their own ideas based on a given starting point. This intensive project culminates in students producing a large-scale final piece under controlled conditions during a 15hr exam.</p> <p>This two year course culminates in a final exhibition and private view evening.</p>
Assessment – Externally Set Assignment = 40% marks

What opportunities are there for me to study beyond the classroom?

Students are encouraged to take the majority of their photographs outside of school as this increases the variety of subjects available. Throughout the course there will be group visits allowing students to take photographs on location, as well as gallery visits.

What kind of career does this subject/qualification prepare me for?

Students progress on to further and higher education and careers in: film /television and photography, landscape gardening, theatre and stage design, product design, furniture design, interior design and architecture, illustration, graphic design and games design, publishing, textiles and fashion design, teaching/lecturing, fine art: sculptor/painter/printmaker, museum and gallery work.