

A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board: Edexcel



Where do I start from?

You will need to meet the School's minimum entry requirements. Please also refer to the Sixth Form Minimum Entry Requirements information sheet. To study this subject you will need to have studied Photography at GCSE and gained a minimum Grade 7 OR, have gained a Grade 7 in another Art related subject. To help decide whether the Art related subject you are studying at GCSE would prepare you for A Level, please discuss with the Curriculum Leader for Expressive Arts before applying. Mathematics at a minimum Grade 4 is acceptable.

It is hoped that candidates will have some photographic background knowledge, but this is not an essential pre-requisite. More important is an enthusiasm for the subject and a willingness to explore and experiment using this medium as a creative means of expression.

What will I study?

The course will explore the development and significance of photography as a means of visual expression and communication. There will be opportunities to explore video and other lens-based media.

Practical work will cover a wide range of photographic skills, techniques and processes through project-based activities with the emphasis on good technical practice and the development of an imaginative and creative use of the medium.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course.

External Assessments:

Component 1: Personal investigation: Incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study. Supporting studies and practical work will comprise a portfolio of development work and outcomes based on themes and ideas developed from personal starting points.

At A Level the personal study will be evidenced through critical written communication showing contextual research and understanding in a minimum 1000 words of continuous prose, which may contain integrated images. The personal study comprises 12% of the total qualification and is marked out of 18.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment: 15 Hours A Level exam, based on a theme supplied by the exam board.

How will I study?

Lessons will vary according to the project being covered and will usually be divided between practical and theory, the practical taking the larger proportion of the time. You will be expected to make notes, research both technical and artistic approaches as well as plan and develop your ideas for each project through sketchbooks. Home learning will be given on a regular basis to extend and develop the set work.

You will be expected to make full use of your non-contact time by using the resources at your disposal. The course will include visits to galleries and exhibitions as well as local area photo shoots.