A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Exam Board: AQA

Where do I start from?

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 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.

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.

Sixth Form

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

Assessments:

Component 1 is a sustained and focused investigation in response to an issue, theme or idea identified and chosen by the student.

- It is a practical body of work, which is supported by written material of between 1000- 3000 words.
- The personal investigation will be assessed as a whole. Evidence of meeting the assessment objectives must be evident in the written and practical work.
- There should be clear development of ideas and techniques based upon the students' intentions.
- Presentation of work can be physical or digital sketchbooks, boards, models or a combination of all these approaches.

Component 2 is an externally set assignment (ESA) which provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to develop and explore ideas relevant to an externally set starting point.

- Students are required to realise their intentions in an outcome or series of outcomes during the period of supervised time.
- Only work produced during the period of preparatory study and within the 15 hours of supervised time may be submitted for assessment.
- Work produced during the preparatory period and the 15 hours of supervised time, will be marked holistically.