



Why is the study of GCSE Photography important?

Photography contributes to your personal and social development building your resilience, self-esteem, sense of achievement and indeed how you view the world. Photography enables you to work creatively, learning about others both historical and contemporary. By creating visually you can appreciate and be inspired by culture and diversity. It is a vital aspect of everyday life and plays an important role in our human experience.

What skills will the study of GCSE Photography teach you?

We will learn how to create photography and digital artwork that is both aesthetic and has message and meaning. You will learn how to create props, how to use a manual camera and how to transform your work using Photoshop. These skills underpin everything we do. All photography projects start from an initial idea. Whilst you are finding the correct location, model or prop you are thinking about what you are creating. You are therefore learning how to refine and develop. Good artists develop a level of resilience. It is ok to make mistakes and then think about how to correct them.

What will you know and understand from your study of GCSE Photography?

All photography is inspired by the work of others. We will look at photography, art and design both historical and contemporary, bringing your learning right up to date. We will see the diverse work of many different creatives. We will look at the different reasons for creating photography and what inspired them. Every piece of art has a story to tell and we will learn these stories. The Art Department trip to London has been expanded to include our year 11 photographers, so will experience cutting edge photography in some of the world's most important galleries. As you create, your skills will develop and you will find which styles and processes you like. You will be introduced to a wide range of techniques and processes and your sketch pad will be a record of your own personal art journey. The project for coursework (worth 60%) is always based on a broad exam style theme that gives you ample scope to work with your interests and work to your skills. Recent projects have included 'Reflection', 'Human Stories' and 'Order and Disorder'. The Externally Set Assignment is equally as broad offering you a wide range of options and ideas.

How can you deepen your understanding of GCSE Photography?

The world of art and photography is full of social, moral, spiritual and cultural content. Every piece is produced for a reason. We will be looking at work from around the world created by people for a whole variety of reasons. We will be reading the stories behind these cultures and delving deep into their messages and meanings. Studying photography will enable you to understand why people are moved to create. You will develop thinking skills. There are always several ways to approach a piece and homeworks will allow you to develop your research skills. The resilience and patience you will learn is transferable to all subjects. We never stop learning!

How are you assessed in GCSE Photography?

There are 6 assessment points each year that we term Praising Stars©. We assess how students at their current stage of study are on track to reach their end of stage targets which are formulated on aspirational expectation from their KS2 starting points. We make an informed prediction from our holistic assessments based on our subject mapping of expectation across the Art curriculum.

The final assessment for your qualification is made in May/June of year 11. The work is assessed by the whole art team and is then externally moderated by Edexcel. The coursework part of the qualification is worth 60% of the overall qualification and the externally set assignment is worth 40%. Both components are created in the art studios and allow students to access all different types of art and the work to their strengths. Students often tell us how much they have enjoyed working on their externally set assignment and how much confidence they derive from it!

COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS

When given the project theme we research and learn about the artwork that has already been created around this theme. We look at art and photography magazines as well as books and websites to find out what is being created in the contemporary art and photography world. Week by week we use a range of photography and digital art skills and techniques to record observations in sketchbooks and other media. This forms a basis for exploring ideas. We analyse and evaluate our work in order to strengthen the visual impact or applications of their work. All this preparation work leads to the final piece where we show all the skills we have learned to produce a piece of work worthy of display.

Key Assessment Objectives

The 4 key assessment objectives in Photography are:-

AO1 – Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2 – Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3 – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

AO4 – Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Students will learn:

Every project starts by analysing work of photographers and working out how to recreate what you see. We learn the craft of the SLR camera, how to use it manually and how to adjust the settings. We introduce flash guns, including off camera flash and remote shooting. Photoshop skills are built in throughout the course introducing you to a wide range of skills and techniques to enhance and manipulate your photography. We learn how to make props, how to set up your shoot in the studio and how to think on your feet! The possibilities are endless and it is really important to get your message across in the work. Everything we produce has a strong message and meaning.

Study of GCSE Photography can lead to a wide range of careers:

Careers that the study of Photography supports include:

Illustrator, Branding designer, Web design, Town planning, Teaching, Event planner, Jeweller, Prop maker, Animator, Game designer, Online content creator, Film maker, Photographer, Cartographer, Fashion designer, Graphic Designer, Architect, Interior Designer, Merchandiser.

There are far too many careers to list here! When we look at options in year 8 and year 10 we will look at the world of art and design in more detail. We help you with your application to Art College or university to study art and have excellent contacts with local colleges.

GCSE Photography Course Overview

Term	
Autumn 1	<p>The basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contexts: How to read and respond to the world of photography. • Using the SLR manual camera to shoot. • How to Photoshop your work to create your intention. • How to present your work to show your journey.
Autumn 2	<p>Advanced photography:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shooting with flash guns, shooting remotely and tethered. • Advanced digital art • London trip for contexts with message and meaning • Presenting your work for assessment
Spring 1	<p>Final coursework piece</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting it all together to meet your intentions • Safely completing and storing coursework • Evaluating the final outcomes <p>Starting the externally set assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Researching photographers and artists • Creating props and shooting • Digitally manipulating your photography
Spring 2	<p>Preparing for the E.S.A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and refining your work • Practicing your final idea
Summer 1	<p>Completing the externally set assignment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing the 10 hour piece in the studio • Creating the ESA diary and evaluation
Summer 2	<p>Assessment and moderation</p>