

Art - Photography

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level (7246 and 7206)

Teacher Contact: Mr Pearce

Entry Requirements: You need to have a passion for images and showing people things in an interesting way. It would be an advantage if you had access to a 35mm film camera and a digital camera. It is a demanding and time-consuming course; students must be prepared to do six hours unsupervised work per week in addition to lessons.

Although this is a reformed A level, in order to track progress, all students will be entered for an examination at the end of Year 1.

What will I study?

YEAR 1

Portfolio 60% of the total for Year 1

You will learn various techniques and skills that are evidenced through a given theme in a work book and then you will produce a set of final black and white and final digital prints.

Externally Set Assignment 40% of the total for Year 1

The examination board sets questions; you select one to work from. This is explored through photography and evidenced as a series of theme, planning boards and final photographs. The formal examination time in which the final prints are developed is 10 hours.

YEAR 2

Personal Investigation

You select your own theme and then extend your understanding of photographic skills through the development of ideas. The work is presented as a work book, through a written analysis of a photographer's work, and a set of final prints.

Externally Set Assignment

The examination board sets questions; you select one to work from. This is explored through photography and evidenced as a series of theme and planning boards and final photographs. The formal examination time in which the final prints are developed is 15 hours.

How will I be assessed?

Your teacher marks your work using four assessment objectives; the marks are checked by an Examination Board Moderator who comes to the school to look at an exhibition of the work and check that marking is in line with national standards.

Is there anything else that I need to know?

The Art department will provide the materials you need but it helps if you have your own cameras. We will expect you to be resourceful and gather and collect things that may help you with your work.

Am I suited to this course?

You will be well suited to this course if you are;

- interested in looking at images and recording special or unusual things
- keen to learn how to use a camera and how to take impressive photographs
- interested in making statements using images
- interested in looking at the work of other photographers.

What other subjects does it complement?

Photography links well with all subjects as it is about presentation of ideas and learning to look at images and learn from them. It complements Art, History and Media particularly well.

Where can it lead?

Photography will support further studies in Media and Film. You may wish to pursue a career in fashion photography or in journalism. It is a valued qualification because it teaches you to communicate using imagery and analyse what is seen or shown. Many students go on to study for a degree in Photography and this can lead to employment as a photographer.

The examination board have told us that;

'The school offers an exciting course where students are given the opportunity to explore a range of traditional and digital processes', 'candidates made very good use of sketchbooks for both preliminary and development work', 'the final outcomes were supported by comprehensive and vigorous supporting studies', 'candidates clearly understood the language and process of the assessment objectives and covered them well'.