

Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level (7246 and 7206)

Teacher Contact: Mr Rutter and Mr Williams

Entry Requirements: You need to have a passion for images and showing people and things in an interesting way. It would be an advantage if you have 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. Students who have studied GCSE Photography or Art require a grade 6 or above to study at A level.

What will I study?

YEAR 1

Terms 1 and 2:

During your first two terms, you will undertake a foundation project. This project will consist of a range of workshops where you will get to experience and learn a wide range of photographic skills including: dark room photography; correct use of a DSLR camera; B&W 35mm photography and film development; pinhole camera making and digital editing processes. In addition to this, you will learn how to research the work of other photographers in depth and also how to structure and present an A Level Photography project.

Terms 3-6:

You will start your personal investigation. This project is worth 60% of your overall grade. The personal investigation is written by you and is an opportunity for you to create a body of photographic work inspired by your own interests. In this project, you will utilise the technical skills you have learnt in terms 1 and 2 to create an extensive project demonstrating your development as a photographer. You will present your work predominantly in a sketchbooks and will also produce a range of supporting prints of your images.

YEAR 2:

Terms 1 and 2:

You will continue with your personal investigation and in addition to this body of work, you will also be required to write and submit a supporting essay. The personal investigation project will culminate in the production of a series of final photographic images and supporting pieces. This could be in the form of short films, photographic sculptures, installations or manually manipulated images.

Terms 3-6:

You will work on an externally set task which will be the remaining 40% of your overall grade. You will be sent a range of themes to choose from in the form of an exam paper from the exam board. You will produce a body of photographic work in response to your chosen theme. This is usually evidenced through the use of sketchbooks and a series of supporting photographic prints. At the end of this

project, you will have 15 hours to produce a final outcome under exam conditions. This time will be spread over three consecutive days.

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 Film Studies 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.