# Photography A Level

## Course Description:

Photography is a popular subject at A Level; you are not required to have taken GCSE art, however drawing skills and knowledge of art give a distinct advantage. The first term will focus on teaching you how the camera works, and an introduction to Photoshop techniques as well as chemical (darkroom) processes and how to analyse an image in depth.

The following 3 terms will be spent creating coursework which is formed from a Personal Investigation exploring and building upon the techniques learnt in the first term to explore personal ideas into more refined and finished pieces of work. Alongside the practical work a written and illustrated Personal Study relating to the History of Photography will be produced through a greater understanding of the place of photography in history and contemporary society will be demonstrated.

In the January of Year 13 the Controlled Assignment is released which provides a choice of themes for students to select from. You will have approximately 10 weeks in which to produce extensive preparation work before creating a 15 hour test piece in May in exam conditions.

## Qualifications Required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Standard entry criteria. A project is to be completed before Sixth Form Induction and a Grade 5 in English is advisable.

## Aims of the Course:

To develop:

- Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive skills
- Independence of mind in developing personal ideas
- Experience of working with a broad range of media, including traditional and new technologies
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology relevant to photography
- Knowledge and understanding of the work of different photographic practitioners and the cultural and historical context to their work
- An awareness of the different roles and functions of photography
- An understanding of relevant conventions and genres in photography

## Future Prospects:

Students wishing to further their Photography/Art studies after A Level would normally enter a One Year Foundation course at a local Further Education College before proceeding onto a degree course in some area of art and design (for example Fashion, Film and Video, Graphic Design etc). Students may apply directly to a course within the photography/ art/design area.

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## Student Feedback:

'Photography is challenging but fun.'
'Photography allows you to explore your creativity and is very diverse.'

## Features of the Course:

- Developing a range of approaches to recording images, exploring and researching techniques that develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of photographic media.
- Explore personal development of ideas in depth and through specialisation of particular media or process
- Develop greater understanding of the role of art and design in society and its cultural context
- Experiment with a wide range of media and techniques, both traditional and new technologies.

## Units

**Component 1**: Personal investigation (60% of A level) consisting of Coursework portfolio of practical work showing a personal project explored in depth, both visually through drawings, paintings etc, and also a related study (minimum word count 3000 words) illustrated essay on an area of art linking to the project. There is more emphasis in this unit on showing a personal 'style' developing though a number of outcomes.

**Component 2**:
Externally Set task (40% of A level). This is similar to Component 1 with the exception that the final controlled test piece is 15 hours long.

## Methods of Assessment:

All work produced throughout the course will be marked and may be used in your final portfolio. Students will have several teachers who will monitor and feedback regularly, to ensure you are making progress. In addition they will help you prepare a portfolio and for an interview should you wish to pursue Photography at college or university.