

photography

A Level Photography Awarding Body: AQA

Photography is a means of communicating in a visual way. It should challenge the way we think about the world, and encourage us to think about the work of photographers and other lens-based artists. The emphasis of this course will be on using photography as a creative and expressive means to communicate ideas, thoughts and feelings.

Course content

Year 1 - Coursework Portfolio

Students will undertake a series of projects in order to build up a coursework portfolio. Beginning with a theme, students will develop skills and knowledge by exploring a wide range of media and techniques including darkroom processes which may include photogram, 35mm film, and the use of acetates, image manipulation packages and digital photography. Students will also be required to undertake research and explore the ideas surrounding artist's work, including the methodology of lens-based practitioners, relating this to the development of their own work. The first year is like a foundation course where students are encouraged to build on strengths learned at GCSE or KS3 to begin to specialise in one area.

Mock Controlled Assignment

This takes the form of a timed test responding to a theme of interest. Students will have ten hours of controlled time to develop their idea into a final outcome.

Assessment

Year 2 - Personal Investigation (60%)

This comprises of a major practical project developed on an individual basis, which has a personal significance and direction. Students will choose their own themes in consultation

with members of staff. Students will explore and investigate a personal practical topic which also involves writing a 1000-3000 word essay relating to your practical work.

Controlled Assignment (40%)

This takes the form of a timed test responding to a question set by the exam board. Students will have eight weeks to prepare and fifteen hours of controlled time to develop their idea into a final outcome.

Progression:

The majority of our students go on to further study on Art Foundation courses and have been highly successful in their applications straight onto degree courses from A level. Our partnership with UCA entitles students to automatic entry onto the foundation diploma and a guaranteed place being offered at degree level. Degree courses in Film Photography, Media, Advertising, Art and Design. Some courses will require a pre-course general Art Foundation Course. The course will support careers in Advertising, Journalism, Film Photography, New Media Design, Film, Media and Fine Art.

Entry requirements:

A GCSE in Art is not essential.

However it is useful for students to have a good English GCSE grade 4 or above.