

Subject: Photography

Level: A Level

Entry Requirements

To study this course you will need to fulfil standard entry requirements plus grade 4 in GCSE Art & Design or equivalent qualification.

Who is the course for?

We are looking for students with a range of interests and an open mind, who embrace broader practices around photography. This is important because photographers increasingly work across genres, from fine art to documentary picture-making.

How will I learn?

In Year 12, you will enjoy an introduction to Photography and complete a project focusing on building basic photography skills, processes and techniques. In Year 13, you will be encouraged to work more independently and develop work in response to an idea, issue or theme of your choice into a finished product, including both practical and written work.

Further Education & Career Pathways:

A large number of our students go on to study Art and Design, Graphics, Illustration, Design Crafts, Photography at a higher level. Some students successfully proceed onto the Foundation course in Art and Design. Alternatively, students may consider direct entry into employment or further training.

Course Outline

Component 1:

Portfolio of work

Each student must include in their portfolio: A selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study and at least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realization. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials. Portfolios may also include: critical/contextual work, sketchbooks, workbooks, journals. Alternatively, students may wish to present a series of related images mounted on sheets.

Practical Investigation

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. The investigation must show clear development from initial intentions to the final outcome or outcomes. It must include evidence of the student's ability to research and develop ideas and relate their work in meaningful ways to relevant critical/contextual materials. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, photographers, designers or craftspeople. The written material must confirm understanding of creative decisions, providing evidence of all four assessment objectives by: clarifying the focus of the investigation, demonstrating critical understanding of contextual and other sources, substantiating decisions leading to the development and refinement of ideas, recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions by reflecting critically on practical work, making meaningful connections between, visual, written and other elements.

The written material must contain 1000 – 3000 words and a bibliography.

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Separate question papers will be provided for each title. These will consist of a choice of five questions to be used as starting points. Students are required to select **one**. Students will be provided with examination papers on 1 February. Preparatory work should be presented in any suitable format, such as mounted sheets, design sheets, sketchbooks, workbooks and journals. Following the preparatory period, students must complete 10 hours of unaided, supervised time. In the second year of the A level there are 15 hours of supervised study at the end of the program.

Course Leader:

Mr. Reilly

