



# Art & Design - Photography



**Specification: AQA**  
**Subject Teachers: Mr R Mercel and Mrs E Ball**

## ENTRY REQUIREMENT

Grade 6 or above in Art or Textiles or acceptance through a portfolio of work at the discretion of the Head of Department

## INTRODUCTION

A practical course for creative, enthusiastic, well-motivated and willing students. Students are given the chance to develop their skills, focussing on the technical as well as the creative aspect of photography. Students will build up a portfolio of high-quality work in preparation for Art/Photography College applications. They are expected to visit galleries and exhibitions in order gain a broader appreciation of photography.

All the components of work are assessed internally and moderated externally by the board.

## COURSE CONTENT

The course involves developing formal and critical understanding of photography, learning camera techniques, experimenting and exploring Photoshop image manipulation as well as manual processes and experiments.

Critical Studies is an integral part of the course and students use their increasing knowledge and experience of other artists/photographers to aid the development of their own ideas and outcomes.

The supporting studies for both components of work take the form of sketchbooks or electronic sketchbooks, mounted sheets, photographs and journals. This is presented in the form of an exhibition at the end of the course.

## ASSESSMENT

### A Level

#### **Component 1 Coursework - Personal Investigation**

**60%**

Students initially follow set weekly themes such as: line, tone and colour. This helps them understand the basic elements of photography. As students progress they will be given themed projects such as portraiture, landscape or documentary work, through which they will make a more

personal response. A final piece, or pieces of work, is accompanied by supporting studies which will include: experimentation of ideas, a range of photographic processes, research on the work of other relevant photographers and evidence of clear development of ideas.

An end of Year 12 examination will be set based on a range of themes which students must respond to.

Following this introduction to the course students develop practical work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme of their choice, leading to a finished outcome. This is supported by written work of approximately 1000 -3000 words, showing research, analytical skills and the ability to reflect upon their own work and to identify the connections with the work of others.

All of the work produced during the course is submitted for the final assessment at the end of Year 13.

### **Component 2**

### **Externally set assignment**

**40%**

A choice of 8 starting points set by the exam board in February of Year 13 provides the basis for a personal project. Research, observations, investigations and experiments are carried out for approximately 8 weeks in order to develop a personal response. Students study the work of relevant photographers and techniques in order to inform their own work. This is followed by a 15 hour (3 day) session, unaided, when students bring their work to a conclusion, producing a finished piece of work. They are expected to demonstrate their ability to respond to a given stimulus within the specified time limit.

## **VISITS/COSTS**

Digital SLR camera (this may include tripod, extra lenses etc.)

Memory cards for camera

Photo paper

A possible residential trip (optional)

Basic materials and sketchbooks

Visits to exhibitions

