

GCSE Photography

What will I learn?

“You don’t take a photograph, you make it.” – **Thomas Merton**

Our GCSE encompasses an overarching theme entitled colour, shape and pattern which incorporates three genres; portraiture, still life and landscape. Photography may be defined as the creative journey through the process of lens – and light-based media.

Students will understand that Photography practitioners may work to client commissions within a commercial photography studio, or work as freelance photographers. They will learn photo manipulation and graphic design skills, and good communication skills in order to liaise with clients and to promote themselves as photographers.

What do I need to know before I can start the course?

It would be beneficial prior to starting the course to have access to a digital camera, preferably a digital single lens reflex camera (DSLR camera). Students will **not** be able to use camera phones. There will be a certain amount of reading and writing.

What does the course involve?

Areas of study will include the use of formal elements to communicate a variety of approaches, the camera and its functions, including depth of field, shutter speed, focal points and viewpoints. The application of observational skills to record from sources and communicate ideas. The effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials and media. The use of digital and/or non-digital applications.

What can I do after the course? What careers will this course be useful for?

Photography is a versatile subject which can be studied to a higher degree at A level or used in media and computer animation. There are many career opportunities for photography such as documentaries, photo-journalism, studio photographer, sports photographer, location photographer, experimental imagery, installation photographer and moving image ie film, video and animation.

Who can I talk to for more information?

Please see any of the Art teachers in the Creative Arts department.

What websites can I check out?

www.edexcel.com

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/photography

www.studentartguide.com