

## Photography GCSE (Optional)

**Board: AQA**

### Course Content

This highly creative GCSE introduces students to a wide range of practical learning experiences which encourages the development of skills needed to meet the four assessment objectives for the course.

During initial lessons students are supported to explore various photographic practices including digital photography, light photography, studio photography and dark room techniques.

### Skills and Knowledge

- Students **develop** ideas through exploring photographers, artists and other relevant sources including historical, contemporary, social, cultural and issues-based contexts
- Students will progressively be able to experiment with appropriate materials and processes, knowing how to **refine** their work and make good progress.
- Students will **record** ideas in ways that recognise their own strengths and interests. They will explore the ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions relevant to photography can be communicated in appropriate visual forms.
- Students will **present** responses that are increasingly **personal** and be able to make choices that result in meaningful practical outcomes.

Within the context of photography, students will need to demonstrate the ability to use photographic techniques and processes, appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example

- lighting
- viewpoint
- aperture
- depth of field
- shutter speed and movement
- use of enlarger
- chemical and/or digital processes

### Assessment

#### Component one

Students will be set coursework projects which span all of year 10 and terms 1 and 2 of year 11. These will be exploring a range of visual themes such as wrong and absurd (breaking the 'rules' of photography), portraiture and selfies. All work completed during this time can count to the final coursework grade (worth 60% of the

GCSE)

There will be up to two 5-hour controlled assessments during the coursework component, allowing students to experience completing work in timed conditions.

### **Component two**

This Externally-Set-Assignment is a project set by the exam board at the start of term 3 in year 11. Students will select a starting topic from their given list which prompts a new photographic investigation. Students are tested on their ability to apply the knowledge and skills acquired during component one to an independent project. This project spans all of term 3 and 4 and culminates in a 10-hour controlled assessment (exam) where students make the personal response that they have been planning in the previous two terms. This assignment in its entirety is worth 40% of the GCSE grade.

This exciting GCSE course would suit students who have a love of visual communication and motivation to work in a mature and independent manner.

**For further details, please see Ms Guttridge (Head of Art & Photography)**