

If you have a creative mind and skill, any Art subject is worth studying. It will allow you to express yourself in whichever way you wish to, allow you to communicate your thoughts, options, feelings and emotions. Photography is a subject that will enable you to develop independent thinking skills as you are the owner of those decisions guided by your teacher, it allows you to develop problem-solving skills alongside critical analysis skills transferable to many other subjects and life situations.

It will broaden your understanding of social, political, environmental and historical context and feed your imagination. Not only that, but it will also challenge and reward your confidence as it builds throughout the two years. If you have considered any career requiring creative thinking, problem-solving, time management and practical working, to name but a few, the skills you will develop as a Photography student will be transferable to many careers you may have never considered before, not just the obvious choices.

Qualities and qualifications needed

You should be dedicated and hard-working, wanting to commit equal amounts of time to the subject in and out of lessons. You need to be open to new ideas, be able to develop and explore your own and other ideas alongside having strong practical skills. You will need to be able to explore in writing the contextual elements of Photography.

Students must have a Grade 6+ in GCSE Photography.

How will the course be assessed?

The course is 60% coursework which includes a practical portfolio and final piece alongside a written related study created as an essay.

There is then a set task which is 40% of the course and is an external examination paper with practical starting points to inspire a second practical portfolio and final piece.



Course Content

During the first year, students develop their skills in a wide range of media, methods and techniques in workshop style lessons. They learn about a range of photographers and how to take influence from them. Midway through the first year, students then select an area of Photography they are especially inspired by to complete a written visual essay called the related study. This will then feed into their practical coursework unit where they explore the elements they have learnt about when completing their essay in a practical and personal manner. This culminates in a final piece created during a controlled assessment.

The students then complete their set task, a second practical portfolio where they explore a new starting point set by the examination board. They again develop ideas, research photographers and explore their own techniques before creating a second final piece completed during a 15-hour examination.



Examinations

Both the coursework unit and set task unit have 15-hour examinations where students create a final piece related to, and culminating, in their practical portfolios for both units.

Methods of curriculum delivery

Mostly practical where the teacher will support students in developing their skills, improving their skills and exploring new ones. One to one mentoring sessions are used during the completion of the coursework and set task as students generally work on individual projects. Students are expected to be independent in their learning developing skills and knowledge of a wide range of photography influences.
