

Photography A Level

Who is the course for?

Photography will develop your awareness of the photographic world around you. We focus on developing your technical camera skills, compositional techniques and Photoshop knowledge. We work hard to enhance your appreciation of photography, teach you how to use our professional studio, and above all help you learn to love the visual world that is ever evolving.

What does the course involve?

Year 12

Students should be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. They should be made aware of both traditional and new technologies. Students produce an extended collection of work that exemplifies aspects of their developing knowledge, skills and understanding. It should provide evidence of research, the development of ideas, making skills and critical/contextual understanding. It should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation.

Year 13

Personal Investigation: Component 1 (60% of A level). Students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artist(s), designer(s), photographers or craftspeople and include written work of no less than 1000 and no more than 3000 words that supports the practical work.

Externally Set Assignment: Component 2 (40% of A level). Students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Assessment Methods

Teacher assessed throughout the two-year course with a portfolio of work and final outcomes produced and professionally presented.

Component 1: Y13 Personal Investigation

September until end of January - January hand in for assessment

Component 2: Y13 Controlled Assessment

February preparations start - April/May: 15 hours controlled assessment, this is to complete a final piece(s) for the Exam Component

Progression Options

Many photographers are freelance and you could do a mixture of contract work and following your own interests. You could extend your range into other areas of photography like product, property or corporate work. With training, you could also work as a press or police photographer. With specialist qualifications, you could find employment in medical photography or illustration, along with many other career paths.

Awarding Body

AQA