



Photography

(A Level Art & Design: Photography)

Aims

- To promote students' individuality and creativity.
- To develop students' abilities to articulate and evaluate work.
- To develop the ability to think and act independently.
- To develop students' confidence.
- To develop students' visual awareness of and sensitivity to the environment.
- To encourage knowledge and understanding of great photographers and artists from our own and other cultures throughout history.
- To provide a foundation for technical aspects of digital photography.
- To develop an understanding of the creative process in photography.

Objectives

- To train the students in basic skills enabling them to handle the digital tools available with confidence.
- To show students how to relate to the work of great photographers and artists and thus be influenced in their own work.
- To give students an appreciation of the development of ideas and styles throughout the ages.

Organisation

The department comes under the umbrella of Art and is a new and exciting department. It consists of the Head of Photography and a full-time technician. Its resources include a Digital Suite of Apple Macintosh computers, 3 printers, 2 scanners, studio-lighting equipment, and a growing library of books. The department aims continually to improve its facilities and resources.

Who studies what and when?

The course has the same syllabus structure as the Art & Design (Fine Art) A Level but is taught through the medium of Photography.

Examination Board & Syllabus: OCR

LVI (AS Level)

Summer Project: obligatory

Coursework Portfolio: based on a selected theme; to include a critical studies element

Controlled Assignment: 5 hours; theme set by the examination board

UVI (A Level)

Summer Project: obligatory

Personal Investigation: based on selected theme and artists/photographers; to include a critical studies element

Controlled Assignment: 15 hours; theme set by the examination board

Qualities expected of students

- An ability to analyse and evaluate pieces of work; an enquiring mind
- A passion for the art of photography and the great works of other photographers
- A curiosity in and willingness to learn new creative, analytical, and technical skills within a tight schedule
- A commitment to completing the Summer Project prior to the commencement of the course, in order to engender familiarity with the functions of one's own camera, and to gain experience of experimenting with the medium of photography. (This is essential, as students will be entering this course without GCSE experience.) This is a serious project and will need to be presented to a high standard.

Equipment resourced by students

- Digital SLR Camera with lens and all its other components, including memory card, battery, charger, case, etc. Recommended camera: NIKON D60 18-55MM.
- Memory stick
- Journal presentation sketchbooks. These journals will be retained by the department for a period of time after the end of the course after which there will be an opportunity for students to collect their work.
- Photographic paper

Benefits

Using the activity of photography, students can learn to express their feelings about the world creatively through their visual sense. They have the opportunity to develop skills within the digital photographic medium, providing a foundation for applying these to a vast number of careers in the creative and media industries.

Through analysing ideas, images and their own work, students will learn to develop their critical-thinking faculties and to use these skills in order to create a refined body of work.