

GCSE Photography

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: Art & Design (Photography)

What is GCSE Art all about?

Photography is about recording the world around you through taking photographs. You will build your photography skills and experiment with digital and physical manipulation techniques showing resilience and being willing to try new things. Photography is a highly creative and personal subject, it allows you to express your own ideas through exciting projects. You will work with others and on your own, learning how to plan and run photography shoots and use professional equipment to produce final images.

How will you learn?

- GCSE Photography focuses on capturing the world around you; so being willing to take photos independently outside of school is important!
- We are an entirely digital course, digital SLR cameras are used in school and mobile phones are encouraged for homework. Your portfolio will be digital, as we work on computers
- You will explore photographers and artists, both historical and current, to influence your own work
- You will experiment with photography techniques, learning how to use a camera, take successful photographs as well as using Photoshop to digitally manipulate and transform your images.
- You will develop a portfolio which not only forms part of your GCSE but also showcases your work to colleges or apprenticeship providers.

Course Structure:

Year 10

You will begin the course by developing your photography skills and understanding through a series of workshops exploring photography techniques and skills, and image manipulation processes. You will practice and master these skills through the building of a portfolio of work, consisting of two teacher directed projects.

Year 11

Building on the skills and knowledge acquired in Year 10, you will refine and master your expertise in taking photographs, experimentation with techniques, research and development of outcomes. Finalising your portfolio in the first term, you will then produce a personal project and outcome which meets the brief of the externally set assignment.

How will you be assessed?

We follow the AQA GCSE Photography specification which consists of two components. There is no written exam paper, it is a practical based exam.

Component 1: Portfolio

60% of the GCSE (96 marks) The student portfolio consists of 2 projects undertaken during the course. This work is assessed by your teacher and moderated by the exam board, AQA.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

40% of the GCSE (96 marks)

From January in Year 11, students respond to a chosen theme provided by the exam board. You will produce a preparatory portfolio demonstrating knowledge and photography skills through exploration of this theme. This leads to the development of ideas and then a final outcome, which is produced in 10 hours supervised time. This work is assessed by your teacher and moderated by the exam board, AQA.

What could I do next with GCSE Photography?

Not only can studying Photography lead to a career in creative industries there is a vast list of photography areas you could follow such as wildlife photography, photojournalism, fashion photographer, sport photographer, camera operator and filmmaker.

Any questions please contact Miss Patterson on kpatterson@sandbachschool.org