

Photography



Exam Board	AQA
Qualification	GCSE A-Level Photography
Entry Requirements	Grade 5 in Art and Grade 5 in English (or in exceptional circumstances, evidence of a portfolio could be considered).
Content (Outline of Course)	<p>This is an intensive course that involves exploring photography through experimentation. Student experiment with digital photography alongside dark room workshops. Projects are designed to encourage students to build up their skills with lighting, composition, shutter speed and depth within their work. There is a modular structure with two units to be completed over the two years. Students are required to investigate external artistic sources within both of their modules and they can choose any artists or artisans who they feel will help develop their own work. All projects should include multiple photoshoots, image editing and development linking closely to their research. The ideas will be refined and thoroughly explored before leading to final prints. Lessons are broadly skills-based and feature teaching in the use of digital cameras, setting up compositions, dark room developing and processes, and editing software. Students are expected to work in the studio during their study time researching and learning for themselves the possibilities of the media, scale, composition etc. Their outcomes are expected to be high quality, creative and, above all, an individual response and exploration of their chosen themes and ideas. Students will be expected to plan and take new detailed photoshoots each week. Students will be encouraged to visit a range of art galleries and respond to learning about art from different times and cultures.</p>
Assessment	<p>Component 1 – coursework and a personal study, an essay of at least 1,000 words (60% of the final mark and based on a project with a theme or focus chosen by the student at the end of the AS course)</p> <p>Component 2 – externally set assignment (40% of the final grade and based on a project that stems from a response to a title set by the examination board; 15 hour exam).</p> <p>Units are teacher-assessed throughout the course via a series of one-to-one tutorials and student critiques. At the end of the course all students are expected to exhibit both of their units in a final show. This is finally assessed by staff according to the exam board assessment criteria and these marks are moderated by a visiting external examiner.</p>
Careers Guidance	<p>The development of creative thinking, which is encouraged through the problem-solving involved in exploring themes and issues, puts students in a valuable position as applicants to colleges and universities, and with employers who are looking for bright young people with a range of exciting ideas. Students can go on to study degree-level Art and Design, Fine Art, Fashion Photography, Photography and the many other arts-based courses that can be a pathway towards employment in many creative careers directly involved in art and other careers which are reliant on developed creative skills. Architecture, Town Planning, Landscape Design and Graphic Design are just a few of the careers followed by recent students of the A-level course.</p>