

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY</b>
<b>Examination Board:</b>	<b>AQA</b>
<b>Syllabus:</b>	<b>Art and Design: Photography</b>

**Topics covered:**

- **Coursework Portfolio (Unit 1):** 60% of the total marks, marked out of 96. This will include work completed in Year 10 and Year 11. Students explore their own theme based around Identity to develop a body of work in their folders and which will lead to a final outcome of their own choosing.
- **Externally Set Assignment (Exam - Unit 2):** 40% of the total marks, marked out of 96. Theme set by the exam board, prepared over a 12 week period.
- Students in Year 11 will be expected to initiate self-led work and establish a personal theme in which they work towards the realisation of a project.
- Students are encouraged to use a planning sheet which will be the subject for discussion in weekly tutorial style meetings with their teacher. Students are encouraged to take ownership of their ideas and outcomes. Students must reflect critically as their work develops.
- Students will record observations based around surface qualities, tackle social issues relating to the structure of reality and conduct experiments based around the manipulation of light and movement with consideration to the fundamentals of image capture.
- Students will be led through a broad range of technical skills and image making possibilities. The formal elements of photography will be taught using commercially relevant software: Adobe Photosho <http://www.adobe.com/>
- Students will undergo their own structured framework of experimentation throughout the year.
- Students are encouraged to think freely about the nature of Photography and its communicative powers, establishing a sense of independence early on. Using the skills they have learnt in class students will be invited to create imagery in relation to the set theme.
- Students are encouraged to make links between art works, images and artefacts and to discuss ideas relating to the theme. Historical, critical and contextual studies are incorporated into students work.
- Each student is expected to produce a portfolio of images for submission at the end of the year.

**Skills Developed:**

Students aim to develop:

- Creative and imaginative powers and the practical skills for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings in lens based media
- Investigative, analytical, experimental and interpretative capabilities, aesthetic understanding and critical skills

- An understanding of codes and conventions of photography and an awareness of the contexts in which it operates
- Knowledge and understanding of lens based media in contemporary societies and in other times and cultures

**GCSE Assessment Criteria:**

- Key Assessments in Art & Design will be carried out three times a year and will cover the four assessment objectives. The assessments will be made not from testing but from appraising a student's grades for each assessment objective for that term.
- Students are assessed using the four assessment objectives below. Each assessment objectives is marked out of 24 marks (96 in total).

**AO1:** Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

**AO2:** Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

**AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

**AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

**Support Material:**

- Each unit is accompanied by example files created by the teacher and past students
- A best practice document has been created to showcase high attainment in Photography and is available in CSA>ART&PHOTOGRAPHY>Mr Gilpin >GCSE Photography>word docs>best practice.
- The critical and contextual material is outlined in the document *Critical Studies GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY.doc*; an overview of both traditional and contemporary lens based media practice in the UK and abroad.
- The timetable for the year is contained in CSA>ART&PHOTOGRAPHY>Mr Gilpin >GCSE Photography, file *timetable.doc (BUT IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)*

**How you can support your daughter:**

- Having a digital camera is a prerequisite for studying Photography. Please see Mr Gilpin for advice on types of camera. A DSLR (detachable lenses) with manual settings is recommended; options to change aperture, shutter speeds and ISO
- A mobile phone with a camera is a recording device (but should not be used to replace a good camera)
- Owning Adobe Photoshop would be of an advantage, free online photo editing applications can be used like Polarr.
- Access to the Internet, a scanner, copier and a colour printer would be beneficial
- Ensure that your daughter regularly attends the weekly lunchtime (days subject to change) and after-school sessions (Wednesday) to complete coursework and homework tasks