

Subject: GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY
Examination Board: AQA
Syllabus: Art and Design: Photography

Topics covered:

- Identity
- Students will record observations based around surface qualities 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 Photoshop <http://www.adobe.com/>
- Students will undergo a 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.

Skills Developed:

We 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 Assessments criteria achievable in this academic year and brief explanation:

- Key Assessments in Art 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.

The Assessment Objectives:

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)*

What you could do to 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 but there are also similar but free online photo editing applications 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 sessions (days are subject to change) after-school sessions (Wednesday) to complete coursework and homework tasks