

A-LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

AQA

Why study this subject?

Students will be introduced to a range of stimulating photographic opportunities and will explore how lighting, lens, camera functions, digital and traditional techniques are used to manipulate imagery.

Photography is more than documenting and recording. Students are required to develop personal, meaningful and conceptual ideas that are technically accomplished through lens based or traditional methods. Students will learn how to master post editing software.

Personal skills that will be challenged and developed:

- Critical, analytical and practical problem solving
- Risk taking
- Rigorous self-evaluation and critical reflection
- Organisation skills, planning and time management
- Working independently and collaboratively
- Presentation skills and public speaking
- Literacy communication through technical descriptions, reports, essays and a mini dissertation.

Component 1

60% of A-level

96 marks

Project 1: Foundation Skills Year 12 September – October

Project 1 workshops explore, develop and fine-tune fundamental camera skills with a focus of manual settings. Students will be exploring the following topics within this project:

- Composition
- ISO
- Aperture / depth of field
- Fast and slow shutter speed - Danson fire work trip
- Post editing with Photoshop

Project 2: The face and figure. Year 12 November – December

Project 2 explores the face and figure within the environment and landscape settings. Students will further their knowledge of shutter speed and focus on long exposure drawings and imagery. They will take inspiration from contextual artists, working independently and developing their own path of exploration.



Brian Hart



Vincent Delevaux



Janne Parviainen

All components are created on PowerPoint, supported by a professional portfolio. Students are required to pay for the costing of final outcome prints.

Project 3: The Past and Present January – February

This project has a fine art approach and incorporates two elements: practical work and a written investigation (500 – 1000-word essay).

Pupils will conduct contextual research of historical and traditional artworks, and will then create practical responses. Pupils will decide their own choice of media and postproduction.



Hendrik Kerstens

Project 4: Personal Investigation March – January

Students are required to conduct a practical investigation into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. (1000–3000-word essay).

The focus of the investigation must be identified independently by the student and must lead to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

Areas of study: Students are required to work in one of the areas of photography, such as those listed below.

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still life photography
- Documentary photography, photojournalism
- Fashion photography
- Experimental imagery
- Multimedia
- Photographic installation
- Moving image (video, film, animation).
- Micro photography
- Fast/slow shutter speed
- Etc..

Component 2

External Set Paper February year 13

Students will choose one topic out of five thematic titles set from AQA and explore that concept with their choice of media and postproduction.

- Preparatory period 14 weeks + 15 hours supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of A-level

Year 12 Induction

Task: Please open this link and watch the documentary

Age of the Image

Documentary series in which art historian James Fox explores how the power of images has transformed the modern world. James starts at the beginning of the 20th century, when an explosion of scientific and technological advances created radical new ways of looking at the world.

From the impact of aerial photography on modern art to our ability to peer inside the body and freeze time itself, the first episode is a dizzying journey of visual invention, which makes fascinating connections between the work of artists, film-makers, photographers and scientists.

Revealing Salvador Dali's debt to Einstein, the ground-breaking trickery of Buster Keaton and shockingly modern fakery of WWI photos, James Fox offers an endlessly surprising, eye-opening look at the beginnings of our image-saturated age.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000fzm9/age-of-the-image-series-1-1-a-new-reality>