Photography

COURSE CODE

A Level   AQA 601/8088/2

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

GCSE Grade 4 or above in one of the Arts subjects.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The course is an art based A Level but has cross-curricular links with many other subjects. Some of the work is of a scientific nature and the subject also requires analysis of visual and imaginative concepts. However the 'art' of the photography is crucial to achieving personal success.

Most students start the course without having any prior knowledge of darkroom photography and some have not studied at GCSE, so it is important to realise that though you will be taught a variety of skills, there is a steep learning curve and you will need to apply concepts and procedures at a high level.

You will work on themes and topics in answering design briefs. The use of critical studies and information on technological, social and environmental aspects is integral to the investigation process. Studies will be undertaken in a range of photography styles such as: - Portraiture; Still life; Documentary/photo journalism; Landscape and Nature.

You will be introduced to photography through: -
• the use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting
• aperture, depth of field and shutter speed
• developing and printing
• experimentation (darkroom and digital)
• composition
• presentation, layout and mounting
• Adobe PhotoShop

WHAT OTHER LEARNING CAN YOU DO

Visit exhibitions both locally and nationally (London) and look at the work of photographers. It is important to research and build on skills taught in lesson so that students can develop further; this may involve reading books or magazines and investigation into: - darkroom skills, film, digital photography, PhotoShop and camera based skills.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Over the two years of the course you will visit exhibitions. The faculty has also organised trips abroad such as India, Italy, Paris, Barcelona and New York, these offer exciting opportunities for photography.

Photography Continued

ASSESSMENT

Year 12
Foundation year where students learn, experiment and build practical skills in both digital and darkroom photography as well as learning the critical and analytical skills needed for the A Level photography course. Work will be project based and determined by the learner and teacher, and assessed by the teacher.

A Level
The A level consists 2 components as follows:

Component 1: Personal Investigation (60% of A Level), internally assessed, externally moderated.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40% of A Level) – (15 hour practical exam), internally assessed, externally moderated.

NEXT STEPS

Post A Level:

Many students go on to Art College to follow a General Art and Design Foundation course at institutions such as the University of the Creative Arts (UCCA), who have bases at Farnham and Epsom, London Institutes - Central St. Martins, and Wimbledon, Kingston and Reigate. Past students have also gone on, either from foundation, or directly to degree courses in: Photography, Fashion Photography, Film and Animation degree courses at Universities such as Bournemouth, Southampton, and Falmouth. A Level photography students have also continued on to study related courses in journalism, graphics, fashion, advertising, media and communication courses. Some students may wish to get a job in the photography industry after leaving school.

CAREER INFORMATION

Photography is useful for careers in the Media, Fashion, Visual Arts and Communication industries. For example it is an asset to anyone wanting to pursue a career in the following fields; commercial, press or fashion photography, Film, Television, Magazine features editor, journalism, graphic design, stylist, Art director, communication and PR, website design, gallery and museum curator.

EXTRA COSTS

Students will need a film SLR camera and will need to purchase their own photography paper, films and sketchbooks (which can be bought at school). Access to a digital camera will also be necessary.