

A-LEVEL / AQA / 2 YEARS

PHOTOGRAPHY

Students produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more areas of study. For example: portraiture, landscape photography, still life photography, documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, experimental imagery, multimedia, photographic installation and moving image (video, film, animation).

Students will be required to demonstrate skills in all of the following:

The ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture.

Awareness of intended audience or purpose for their chosen area(s) of photography.

The ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need.

Appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement.

Appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in their chosen area.

Understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS Students work within digital platforms to create online and physical portfolios. They are given a range of set themes as starting points for each project. Students are expected to create final outcomes at the end of each project which support portfolios that document their creative journeys. Skills-based teaching in post-production digital manipulation, dark room techniques and video editing takes place alongside project development as well as extending students' ability to analyse art and design movements. Students take part in group workshops, individual tutorials and class critiques throughout the course as well as being offered opportunities to attend gallery visits and residential art trips.

ASSESSMENT Component 1 (60% of final mark) - students develop work based on an idea, issue, concept or theme leading to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes. Practical elements should make connections with some aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists, designers, photographers or craftspeople and include written work of 1000 to 3000 words which supports the practical work.

Component 2 Externally Set Task (40% of final mark) - students respond to a stimulus, provided by AQA, to produce work which provides evidence of their ability to work independently within specified time constraints, developing a personal and meaningful response which addresses all the assessment objectives and leads to a finished outcome or a series of related finished outcomes.

SUBJECT COMBINATIONS We recommend that students take no more than two visual arts subjects (Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Art, Craft and Design, Fashion and Textiles) as we encourage a broad curriculum. Other subjects that combine well with Photography include Media Studies, Film Studies, Games Development, English Literature, History, and Business Studies.

CAREERS/HE INFORMATION Many students go on to study the Level 4 Foundation Art diploma at Durham Sixth Form Centre to support applications into arts-based university degrees. Students also apply directly to BA Honours degree courses in photography, interactive media, fashion and marketing, make up and special effects. Past students have progressed to prestigious universities such as UAL, Brighton, Northumbria and Norwich University of the Arts.