

PHOTOGRAPHY

Type of Qualification: GCSE (AQA)

How it is assessed: 60% Coursework
40% Examination Project

Course Overview:

- Photography is a mainly black and white darkroom based (silver print) course with a small element of digital photography. It is focused mainly on the fine art aspect of photography and is an excellent course for students to explore their artistic creativity using the camera and darkroom as tools.
- Students work on several projects each lasting around 5-6 weeks. One of which will be completed as a mock examination over 10 weeks so that students can appreciate the format of the final examination project. Students will research other photographers and will use this research to inform their own ideas. Previous experience of photography is not necessary and students do not need to own their own camera, although it is advisable to do so. Students will need to commit to working in the photography department outside of lessons, in lunch and/or after school at least once per week.
- As part of the course students learn how to use a 35mm camera, process black and white film, enlarge, print and display their own photographs. Each finished project will consist of a sketchbook and mounted photographs.
- The materials that are used in photography are expensive and a yearly fee of £40 will be charged to each student to cover the cost of a 4 of films, a portfolio, contribution towards mount card and the use of the darkroom chemicals. Students will need to supply their own photographic paper, sketchbooks and any additional films they require. These can be purchased from the Art Department or any reputable photography/art materials supplier. We currently sell 25 sheet boxes of 8X10 photographic paper for £9, sketchbooks for £3 each and black and white films for £3.50 each. Help towards this cost will be provided to students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.
- The examination consists of an externally set paper, which students respond to over a period of 10 weeks, developing and exploring ideas culminating in a 10-hour final examination held over a two-day period.

Beyond Year 11:

Photography GCSE would be a key requirement to study Photography at a higher level.

