

A-Level Photography

Exam board: AQA

What will I be covering in the course in year 12?

We aim to introduce students to the real core of photography. Students will explore digital and darkroom techniques and processes allowing them to develop their understanding of the key elements of photography. A good photographer needs to be able to read situations, to anticipate and to react. The course includes a strong academic element in which students are challenged to analyse and critique the work of others.

Students will explore the different disciplines such as fine art photography, studio based still life and portraiture, film and digital photography and editing techniques. They will be encouraged to visit museums and galleries as part of their own studies with a high emphasis upon developing skills as an independent learner.

Students produce a portfolio of evidence covering a wide range of photographic disciplines, allowing them to experiment and explore a wide range of workshops that will give them essential photographic and editing skills. Students will then begin their personal investigation into a theme of their choice.

Each student must include in their portfolio:

- a selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study
- at least one extended collection of work or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue. This should demonstrate the student's ability to sustain work from an initial starting point to a realisation. It should include evidence of their ability to research and develop ideas and link their work in a meaningful way to relevant critical/contextual materials.

How will I be assessed?

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Students will have a mock exam in January (date tbc), which is an extended period of time in which they will produce an ambitious personal response to their personal investigation. They will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual sources
- Explore and select resources, media, materials, techniques and processes – refining idea development
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response from ideas. Make connections between visual and written elements.
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Students have a timetable of when Art rooms are free and available to use for drop in's and are expected to complete a minimum of 5 hours a week working independently on their current project outside of lesson time.

