



# PHOTOGRAPHY

## **Entry Requirement:**

It is normally expected that students embarking on a GCE Advanced course in Photography will have achieved a relevant qualification at a higher grade GCSE (9-4/5 or A\*-C). However, this is not a formal requirement. Alternatively, the submission of a portfolio of relevant work will be assessed for suitability for study at this level.

**Examination Board:** Lens and Light-based Media  
EDEXCEL (9PYO)

This qualification aims to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to photography. Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary photographic practice and be able to produce work that embraces a range of ideas. Candidates should be encouraged to reflect on their own work and on the work of others. Presentation is a key element, candidates are required to present and display their work in a creative and purposeful manner.

## **Course Content and Assessment**

The specification is designed to facilitate increasing opportunities for candidates to determine the nature and direction of their own studies. Candidates will have opportunities to explore the variety of formal elements, processes and practices which underpin photography, as experienced through the four units.

Unit 1 **Coursework- Teacher led workshops**

Unit 2 **Internally Set Assignment**

Unit 3 **Coursework: Personal Study - Both written and visual elements**

Unit 4 **Externally Set Assignment: (15 hours timed examination)**

In addition to the above, candidates will be required to submit supporting studies which will contain evidence of a student's visual thinking and conceptual understanding, recording their responses to chosen ideas.

## **Assessment Objectives**

These are equally weighted and form the basis of the course.

**A01 1. Development of ideas** – Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

- A02 2. Experimentation and Manipulation of Media-** Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
- A03 3. Recording and Research** – Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
- A04 4. Outcomes** - Bring together investigations in relation to creative intentions to realise final outcome(s).
- A05 5. Written** - Integrating critical analysis and contextual research, with own ideas and practical investigations.

## **The Course**

Photography – lens and light-based media includes works in film, video, digital imaging and light-sensitive materials. Sometimes, techniques and processes are used to convey messages and create works related to other disciplines, such as web-based animations, photographic images in printed journals, light projections within theatrical or architectural spaces.

Work in photography – lens and light-based media should form a means of personal enquiry and expression involving the selection and manipulation of images. Students must employ creative approaches which go beyond mere observation and recording.

In the context of this specification, disciplines will include film-based photography, digital photography and film and video. Students will be required to work in one or more of these disciplines.

## **Teaching and Learning Methods**

As a whole cohort, students are guided through a variety of skills and techniques that they then explore independently within their own self led projects. Independent thinking is wholly encouraged at this level of study, whilst regular individual tutorials are conducted to maintain the quality of work and guide students through ideas.

## **Homework**

There is an expectation that students work independently for a suggested time of 5 hours per week. We have an 'Open Studio' ethos so students can undertake independent study within the department with staff support if necessary.

## **Complementary Subjects**

Photography encourages independent thinking and develops visual thinking and problem solving skills. This then allows it to become a complementary subject for all other subjects within the curriculum.

## **Trips and Visits**

The department offers a Study Visit every two years, where students will embark on a 4 day residential trip to a European city. Taking inspiration from the environment around them, students will take photographic shoots that will inform the development of their personal coursework projects. Students are also encouraged, throughout the course, to visit contemporary exhibitions locally and nationally.

## **Materials**

A pack of materials is available from the school at cost price. This will include all the main materials required to complete the course.

A camera and a memory stick would be useful equipment for the course. However, it is **not** essential that you purchase a camera, as there are a limited amount of cameras available at school, which can be borrowed for small periods of time when required.