

OPTIONS COURSE

PHOTOGRAPHY (GCSE)

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | AQA

QUALIFICATION

GCSE Photography (Lens and light-based media)

FACULTY

ART, DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

STAFF CONTACTS

Mr I Webster and Mr P Selfe.

WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

You should be enthusiastic and hardworking, have a need to develop your skills and ability to create exciting photographs of life style, interests and surroundings together with an interest in how images have an impact on our everyday lives. There is an element of written work in which you will analyse imagery, recording evidence of your understanding of skills, evaluation and the cultural relevance of Photography.

COURSE FOLLOWED

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/subjects/AQA-4200-W-SP-14.PDF>

WHAT WILL I DO ON THE COURSE?

You will have the opportunity to take and process your own photographs. You will look at the work of different photographers and artists. You will learn how to use SLR and DSLR cameras together with computer editing software. The course is practical and theoretical: encouraging your imagination, creativity, and ability with technique, analysis & evaluation skills. Look at our blog that supports the curriculum; <http://ashfieldschoolphotographyks4.blogspot.co.uk>

HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED & ASSESSED?

The course involves two units:

Unit One: Coursework is split into three projects. Project Environment, which explores Buildings and Landscape through the medium of 35mm film and pinhole photography allowing you to experience the dark room. Project Portrait is DSLR based and explores the potential of Photoshop allowing you to use digital manipulation and the high key lighting studio. Project 3 is a collection of four starting points, which allows the individual to make creative choices and demonstrate the practical and analytical skills learned through previous projects.

Unit Two: Externally set assessment. This consists of a choice of seven starting points. The students will have eight weeks in which to explore this starting point evidencing all practical and analytical skills. This ends in a ten-hour exam where the student continues to demonstrate practical and analytical skills with no teacher guidance. Students will present all work with a final piece, pieces or design at the end of the ten-hour exam period.

The overall marking of work is weighted 60% for coursework and 40% for the exam.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DO YOU HAVE TO DO ANY WRITING?

Yes. 25% of your grade depends on your written annotations, analysis and evaluation.

DO I HAVE TO WORK MUCH OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?

Yes. You must do the same amount of homework as any other GCSE and you are expected to work more independently.

CAN I DRAW AND PAINT WHAT I WANT?

You will be given a project brief and you must satisfy the assessment criteria.

DO I HAVE TO SIT AN EXAM?

Yes but it is a practical exam 'unit', with analytical and evaluative sections but is not a traditional written exam.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESSION ROUTE?

AS/A Level Photography and/or Fine Art courses, BTEC Level 3 Creative courses.

Career path into Art, media, journalism etc.

