

# Sixth Form Courses

## A Level Photography

### Why take this subject?

Our A-level course in Photography offers an exciting mix in both traditional and contemporary ways of working. By the end of the course you will be able to demonstrate the following:

- a range of approaches to working with images, signs and symbols, such as observation, analysis, expression, communication and imagination
- an understanding of conventions and genres, such as portrait, landscape and movement
- an understanding of role and function, such as documentary, war photography and fashion photography
- a range of techniques appropriate to the specialism of photography, such as the control of shutter speed and the use of aperture
- the ability to make effective use of different lighting conditions, pictorial space, composition, rhythm, sequence, scale and structure
- the ability to make effective use of formal elements, such as colour, tone, texture, shape, and form

### What do I need to have studied at GCSE?

Students with GCSE Art and or Photography Grades '6 and above'; students who are prepared to work hard at developing skills and ideas and can work to a formal structure guided by a tutor. Students who did not take a GCSE in the relevant qualification but can demonstrate an aptitude for the subject, are creative and will be extremely committed may have the ability to succeed.

### What will we study?

AS Photography comprises of two units of work – the coursework projects and final examination. We cover basic techniques and the formal elements in both digital and analogue processes. You will work with light-sensitive materials as well as digital photography and will employ creative approaches in all your work which goes beyond mere observation and recording. You will develop and explore possibilities through darkroom skills as well as image manipulation using Adobe Photoshop. You will research the work of others in order to situate your own work within the ever changing context of the visual image.

At A2 level students further develop individual working methods and complete a more sustained unit of work developed from personal starting points. A personal study will be linked to practical work and demonstrate students' critical and analytical skills. The final unit comprises the externally set assignment and timed test. We encourage and expect independent working to become part of the students' work ethic at this level and it is expected that students spend up to 5 hours working on self-directed study each week.

### How will I be examined?

Edexcel's GCE in Art and Design (Photography) comprises of two components.

Component one is the coursework element and makes up 60% of the total qualification- this is worth 90 marks, this includes 18 marks for a Personal Study (essay).

Component two takes the shape of an externally set assignment with a period of sustained focus (exam) at the end.

### Assessment objectives. Specification 2016

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

**A02:** Explore and select appropriate resources, media, material, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops

**A03:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress

**A04:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

### What super curricular opportunities will be available to me?

We visit galleries and museums, organise workshops with visiting professional photographers and arrange photo shoot opportunities. Photography club runs twice a week as an opportunity to develop skills, catch up on coursework or speak to teachers for advice.

### What can this subject lead to?

When you successfully complete your GCE in Photography you could move on to study for a degree, BTEC Higher National Diploma or Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.