

# A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY



## SWIFT CHANCE, DISARRAY, WONDER & EXPERIMENT

Photography is a **learning to look** course. Photographers notice things. They are attuned to the 'marvellous in the everyday' and use photographic tools to capture and record the way the world looks when you photograph it. A level photography will help you to learn to appreciate what Walker Evans called "**swift chance, disarray, wonder and experiment**" and will, consequently, enhance your life. Given our history of **outstanding results**, you'll probably also end up with an impressive A level result and a **portfolio of note**.

### **Aims of the course**

On this course you will develop:

- the ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern, focus, light and texture in the context of photography
- awareness of intended audience or purpose for your chosen area(s) of photography
- the ability to respond to an issue, theme, concept or idea, or work to a brief or answer a need in photography
- appreciation of viewpoint, composition, aperture, depth of field, shutter speed and movement
- appropriate use of the camera, film, lenses, filters and lighting for work in your chosen area(s) of photography
- understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

Art & Design: **Photography  
Lens-based & light-based media**

You must show knowledge and understanding of:

- relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources
- how ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts created in your chosen area(s) of photography
- historical and contemporary developments and different styles and genres
- how images and artefacts relate to social, environmental, cultural and/or ethical contexts, and to the time and place in which they were created
- continuity and change in different styles, genres and traditions relevant to photography
- a working vocabulary and specialist terminology that is relevant to your chosen area(s) of photography.

## Course Outline

We have decided to teach **only the two year, linear A level course**. We **will not be offering an AS qualification at the end of Year 12**. We believe that completing the two year course, and being assessed at the end, will both enhance your chance of success and improve your understanding of photography.

### A Level Photography

#### Component 1:

##### Personal investigation

60% of A Level

No time limit (96 marks)

#### Component 2:

##### Externally set assignment

40% of A Level

Supervised time 15 hours

(96 marks)

## Introduction

You will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, techniques and processes. You will be made aware of both traditional and new technologies and you will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to Photography and a wider range of art and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples. This is integral to the investigating and making process. Your responses to these examples will be shown through practical and critical activities which demonstrate your understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. You will be aware of the four assessment objectives to be demonstrated in the context of the content and skills presented and of the importance of process as well as product. You will keep a visual journal (ei-

ther a book or website) to document your work. You will use both traditional methods and digital techniques to produce images.

## Areas of study

You will be required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below. You may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

- portraiture
- landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world)
- documentary photography, photo-journalism
- fashion photography
- experimental imagery
- multimedia
- photographic installation
- moving image (video, film, animation)

## Aims of the course

You will be encouraged to develop:

- intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities
- investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills, aesthetic understanding and critical judgement
- independence of mind in developing, refining and communicating their own ideas, their own intentions and their own personal outcomes
- an interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design
- the experience of working with a broad range of media
- an understanding of the inter-relationships between art, craft and design processes and an awareness of the contexts in which they operate



- knowledge and experience of real world contexts and, where appropriate, links to the creative industries
- knowledge and understanding of art, craft, design and media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures
- an awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art, craft and design.

## Assessment Objectives

**AO1:** Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.

**AO2:** Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.

**AO3:** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.

**AO4:** Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.



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