St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level Photography

Course Description

Are you ambitious, creative and motivated? This is a very open and exciting two year course with a focus on creative and practical applications of Photography.

We live in a visual culture and photographs are all around us. A Level Photography will teach you to look at the world in a creative way. There are many different styles of Photography to explore, we will guide you to look with fresh eyes at genres such as fashion, photo journalism, fine art or mixed media. This course will enable you to apply creative, analytical and critical thinking and problem solving, in order to visually communicate your ideas through photography. Students will develop critical analyses of artists' work helping to develop their own ideas through reaction, practical application and written reflections. You do not need to have studied GCSE Photography before however the ability to work independently is important.

Skills Attained

No prior knowledge is necessary. You will learn how to use cameras and image manipulation software. We will increase your ability to explore elements of visual language, line, form, colour, pattern and texture in the context of photography. Other areas of study include, an awareness of intended audience or purpose for their 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 their chosen area(s) of photography. Understanding of techniques related to the production of photographic images and, where appropriate, presentation and layout.

Assessment

There are two components to the Photography A level:

Component 1: Personal Investigation has no time limit (60% of total mark). In the first year students build a competent and experimental portfolio resulting in a Personal Investigation.
Component 2: Externally Set Task is in the second year of the A Level this has a preparatory period and a 15 hour exam (40%).

Progression

Progression can be directly to University, employment or a Photography Foundation course.

Students progress onto a wide variety of creative industries such as fashion, medical illustration, photography, photo journalism, commercial photography, photo editing and retouching, film/animation, television, games design, artist, media and advertising.

Some creative students study both Fine Art A level and Photography to build a wide ranging portfolio.



Entry Requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Photography (if taken)

Exam Board: AQA

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