

PHOTOGRAPHY

The photography course is based over two years and has two units. The outcomes of their work are instant and students are able to visually monitor their own progress through the whole two year course.

Photography is a popular option, as it is an increasingly expanding media, that has changed drastically in the recent past. With the advent of digital cameras and smartphones, it's even more accessible to take professional-looking, artistic images that can have a big impact on our time and culture. We can use photos to express ourselves and communicate with one another. Photographs share so much about who we are as individuals: what we find beautiful, fascinating, funny, delicious, important, inspiring. They allow us to showcase our personal style, interests, relationships, adventures, and they mark the passage of time. This course will require you to look at objects, people, art and cultures in different ways, so that the work you create is unique and interesting.

GCSE photography comprises of a coursework unit, where the self-directed themes are graded against assessment objectives, each worth 25% of the marks:

- AO1. Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- AO2. Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- AO3. Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- AO4. Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Unit 1 - coursework based and worth 60% of the final grade *September Year 10 to December Year 11*).

Unit 2 - an externally set exam and this is worth 40% of the final grade *(Year 11 January to May)*.

Students will study two projects throughout Unit 1; capturing light and photo manipulation. To support study of the course students will be taught how to use digital cameras and Adobe photoshop. You will also develop transferable skills including: problem solving, critical analysis, expressing individual thoughts, risk taking and learning from mistakes.

There is a large commitment required in this course; throughout the first project students will be encouraged to spend several hours outside capturing natural light and how it changes their surrounding environment. Homework is issued each week and you will have to work independently towards the strict deadlines throughout. Students that study on GCSE photography could go on to study other creative courses at further or higher education, including various Photography courses, cinematography, film studies or animation. We also have the progression route of A Level art at UHS where you can specialise in various areas of art.

Mr Williams, Art Curriculum Leader, will all be happy to talk to you further about GCSE photography.

