

GCSE Photography



ALSOP HIGH SCHOOL

AIM:

This qualification is for learners who wish to gain skills through investigating, exploring and creating photographic projects as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

Students will produce a wide range of short photographic portfolios, which when combined, will contribute towards their final portfolio score, which equates to 60% of their final GCSE grade. The remaining 40% of the GCSE comes in the form of an external assessment, where students respond to a brief set by the exam board. This external assessment follows the same structure as the short portfolio projects.

Where will it take you?

The Art and Design: Photography GCSE provides the knowledge, understanding and skills for Level 2 learners to progress on to:

- Photography (AS/A-Level)
- Art and Design (AS/A-Level)
- Media Studies (AS/A-Level)
- BTEC Media Studies (Level 3)
- Other related academic qualifications
- Employment within the creative media industry – for example – junior roles working in moving image production, audio production, or publishing.

What will you learn?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop industry standard knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas of equal importance, which covers 1) the knowledge that support the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes – for example, photographic processes and techniques, editing. 2) Development of key skills that prove skill in photography – for example, investigating and developing ideas through exploring another photographers' work, taking photographs and editing / presenting final images. 3) Processes that support effective ways of working in the photographic industry – for example, responding to briefs and feedback, planning and generating ideas.

Students will undertake several small photographic projects that when combined, make up their final portfolio. Topics for these small photographic projects include:

- Portraiture/Landscape / Location Photography
- Studio Photography
- Experimental Imagery
- Food/Product Photography
- Pattern / Macro / Product Photography

This course complements the learning in GCSE qualifications, such as Design and Technology, Art and Design, and Media Studies, by broadening the application of 'design and make' tasks, working with a photographic brief, and understanding and engaging different audiences through taking a variety of photographic subjects and styles.

You will develop your knowledge around the building blocks of music through the study of different styles of music. This will enable you to develop your skills in music performance, listening, recording and composition. You will be given the opportunity to learn how to play an instrument of your choice with specialist instrumental teachers and through this, will learn how to develop self-motivation and independent learning skills. You will be given the opportunity to create your own pieces of music using the latest music software, which will develop and encourage your imagination whilst building on your knowledge of music. All of this will be done with access to a wide selection of resources and specialist learning equipment.

What homework can you expect?

There will be a sensible use of homework throughout this course. Research will be important – students may be required to research existing photographers with the express aim of developing their creative thinking. Additionally, students will be required to take photographs outside of lesson time, due to constraints to the school site, weather conditions, and/or other factors related to their project. Students will be required to attend boosters when necessary for coursework/exam revision. Purchasing requirements will be kept to a minimum and no student will be at a disadvantage if unable to purchase items, as there are plentiful resources within the department (computer software, camera equipment, lighting, etc.)

Additional requirements

There is a requirement for pupils on this course to be willing to record themselves and others through the taking of photographs. Important: students do need access to a camera in order to take this course. The camera on a smartphone is enough for this, and students are not expected to purchase a separate digital camera.

For further information please see Mrs Alker