

Curriculum Overview – KS4 Art & Photography

- Develop students as confident, independent artists and photographers who can experiment, refine and present creative work.
- Encourage exploration of a broad range of media, materials and techniques across fine art and lens-based media.
- Build visual literacy and cultural awareness, linking work to historical and contemporary artists/photographers.
- Teach students to analyse, reflect and evaluate, improving their own work and understanding others'.
- Prepare students for further creative study or careers by giving them professional-style experiences (portfolio, exhibitions, critiques).
- Embed the academy's aims: globally aware, culturally aware, self-aware, ambitious and work-ready.

Y10	
Autumn	Foundation Skills • Drawing from observation, exploring tone, texture, proportion. • Photography basics: camera functions, composition, exposure. • Research into key artists/photographers, analysing techniques.
Spring	Thematic Project 1 (e.g. Natural Forms or Identity) • Mixed media explorations: painting, printmaking, digital photography, editing (Photoshop). • Develop sketchbook with research, experiments, and personal ideas. • Assessment focus: AO1 (develop ideas), AO2 (experiment with materials).
Summer	Project 1 Continued • Refine personal responses, annotation, peer/teacher critique. • Present final outcome (artwork or photographic series). • Assessment focus: AO3 (record observations), AO4 (present outcomes).

Y11	
Autumn	Thematic Project 2 (e.g. Conflict, Culture, Place) • Independent development of ideas from chosen theme. • Photography: studio lighting, portraiture, editing. • Fine art: larger scale, mixed media, experimental. • Portfolio selection and refinement.
Spring	Externally Set Assignment (ESA) • Respond to exam board theme. • Research, record, experiment, refine ideas. • 10-hour exam preparation: sketchbook build-up, artist links, test pieces.
Summer	ESA Final Exam & Submission • Produce final piece under exam conditions (10 hours). • Final portfolio submission of coursework and ESA. • Curate assessment-ready body of work.