



# GCSE Photography

## A Parents' Guide:

How you can help at home

### **General Course Outline:**

During the course, work is based on a chosen theme. Pupils will complete a portfolio of work to meet the assessment objectives, plus various planning activities and a weekly homework.

In Year 11 pupils begin to follow a more individual programme agreed with their teacher and based around their strengths and interests.

### **Marking:**

The portfolio component makes up 60% of an overall mark and the exam makes up 40% of the mark.

### **Looking at Photographers**

The pupils are encouraged to begin to develop their own style and their portfolios should show how this develops. Pupils look at the work of photographers known for their techniques, style and subject to help their own work develop.

### **Homework:**

Assignments are set on a weekly basis and are related to the theme of the project. They need to spend 1- 2 hours a week on their homework. Photography club will run twice a week, after school (3pm - 4.15pm) to support pupils.

### **Basic Equipment List**

DSLR camera and camera bag, Access to ICT through a computer or tablet, SD card and SD card reader.

### **The Exam:**

Year 10:

Pupils will sit a 10-hour exam in the spring and summer term, where they will be able to produce outcomes to the projects set which will then support their portfolios.

Year 11:

Pupils will begin their Mock examination in September to allow time for preparation and will complete a final piece in November. Pupils will receive their final examination papers at the beginning of the Spring Term and sit the 10-hour exam before the Easter Holidays.

### **Planning for the exam:**

Once pupils receive their paper and notes for guidance, which sets the theme and suggests ideas, they will then spend time in class and for homework preparing their ideas. They need to look at related work by photographers to inform their ideas. They may need to get out to a particular location or set up scenes to photograph their thoughts and ideas. They may need to bring in props or clothing for costumes.

It is essential that **all preparation work** and **equipment** should be brought into the exam on the day, so please give them a reminder.

They will be assessed on-

- AO1- Develop Ideas
- AO2- Refine Ideas
- AO3- Record Ideas
- AO4- Present Ideas

### **Other ways to help with study at home:**

Firstly, you do not need to be a photographer yourself so do not panic! It will help your child with their work if:

- You can discuss their work with them, adding ideas, helping with research and the collection of pictures and objects. Always be positive and constructive.
- Try to ensure that they have a well-lit and flat surface to work on, ideally where work can be left out while in progress and access to a computer or tablet.
- Try to ensure they have the basic equipment that they will need:
- Try to give access to your local library, local museums, and galleries.
- Try to help them get out in their local environment for location shoots.
- Help them source props and clothing for costumes.