



Sixth Form Handbook
Photography

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About the course

A Level Photography is a 2 year practical course that will give you the opportunity to learn how to create high quality photographs that communicate your thoughts, ideas and emotions. Through learning about the technical, artistic and historical aspects of the subject you will be able to develop your own vision of the world and be able to share this with others.

In the first year of the course, you will be taught the basics of photography through a series of workshops and mini projects. You will learn about the history of photography and will get to know your cameras and learn how to create images using aperture, shutter speed, and ISO settings. The effects that can be gained through careful lighting and composition will also be explored. An important skill that you will be taught in the first year of the course is the ability to analyse, evaluate and learn from imagery from the history of photography. You will investigate and experiment with the genres of landscape, portraiture, still life and photojournalism.

The second half of the year will allow you to employ the photographic knowledge, skills and understanding that you have learned in response to a range of starting points for an extended project. There is not an exam in year 12 but the extended project will give you an opportunity to practice your idea generation and produce an outcome in a set amount of time which will help prepare you for the final year of the course. In the second year of the course, you will be able to choose your own topic or theme to study as a personal investigation. This unit will build upon your developing independence and you will be guided and supported by your teachers but the responsibility for managing and planning your own learning will increase. As in the first year of the course, you will be given a list of starting points upon which to base your creative journey for your externally set assignment. This will lead to a 15 hour exam in April. For the time remaining after this unit you will be completing and refining the coursework from your personal investigation.

In the second year of the course, you will be able to choose your own topic or theme to study as a personal investigation. This unit will build upon your developing independence and you will be guided and supported by your teachers but the responsibility for managing and planning your own learning will increase. As in the first year of the course, you will be given a list of starting points in February upon which to base your creative journey for your externally set assignment. This will lead to a 15 hour exam in April. For the time remaining after this unit you will be completing and refining the coursework from your personal investigation.

How you will be assessed

First Year

Component 1- Coursework. A portfolio of experiments, investigations and outcomes based upon a range of themes. .

A Level (Second year)

Component 1 – Personal Investigation

This is an inquiry into a theme or topic of your choice that combines research, written and practical outcomes. Worth 60% of the A level grade.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment (Exam unit). This makes up the remaining 40% of the A level grade.

During the course the student will be monitored and assessed against the 4 assessment objectives. Each assessment objective is equally weighted.

AO1	A02	A03	A04
<i>Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding</i>	<i>Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops</i>	<i>Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress</i>	<i>Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements</i>
25% of AS Grade	25% of AS Grade	25% of AS Grade	25% of AS Grade

Tutorials:

At regular points during the course you will be given one to one tutorials and your progress will be discussed with you. It is your job to write down the feedback that you are given and to follow the advice or action plans that come from your tutorials.

Formal Assessment:

Your progress will be formally assessed and tracked at a number of points during the course. The results of these assessments will be recorded as your track points and will be shared with you, your parents and your form tutor. These assessments will also be the focus of the parents' evenings throughout the year.

Course Reading List & Materials

Books

Complete book of Digital Photography by Tim Daly. A great A4 paperback book full of 'how to' ways to improve your photos by using digital settings and Photoshop. (Published by Argentum).

50 photographers you should know. The title explains the importance of this book. This thin A4 book is relatively cheap and essential reading to help you understand more about your subject (Published by Prestel).

The Art of photography: An approach to personal expression by Bruce Barnbaum.

Read this book if you want to take great photographs by Henry Carroll

Phaidon – produce a series of reference books, with comprehensive listings of contemporary and past artists and designers with single examples of their work and supporting notes. Titles include: The Photography Book.

Taschen – produce a wide range of large format, inexpensive and well - illustrated publications covering movements, individual artists, architectural styles and identified periods in history.

Useful websites

www.thisiscolossal.com (A constantly updated showcase of the creative Art and Design, Photography Illustration, Craft and much more. This is a great place to visit when you need inspiration).

www.magnumphotos.com

www.photonet.org.uk The Photographers' Gallery

Equipment

Please note that to complete your Photography A level you will need to have your own digital SLR (single lens reflex) camera or bridge camera (a camera that is not a digital SLR but is a step up from the standard 'point and shoot' models). Please note that you cannot do an A level in photography using a camera on your mobile phone. You will also need an SD card and an SD card reader.

Tasks before September

The following tasks must be completed to the best of your ability and be brought ready for you to share with your class in your first year 12 Photography lesson in September. They will be a great way for you to introduce yourself to your new Photography teachers and for you to demonstrate your commitment to the course that you have chosen. Task 1- Select a favourite book or poem that has personal meaning to you then, take 10-15 high quality photographs that allow you to express the story or mood of the piece to others. Your photographs must be well planned and not 'snaps'. Tips for success: Think about subject matter, angle, composition and lighting. Task 2- Present the images that you have taken for task 1 in a creative way that shows them off well. This might be within a handmade book, in concertina sketchbook etc Tips for success: Present your work with thought and care and try to make the presentation fit the mood of your photos. Task 3- Research images from the history of photography and choose one photograph that interests and inspires you to present to the rest of your class. Be prepared to explain why you have chosen it and what you admire about it. Tips for success: you should be prepared to talk about the photograph for around 3 minutes.

Who can I contact for help?

Should you require any further information as you prepare to begin your A level in Photography please contact:

Mrs Field i.field@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk

Mrs Wells j.wells@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk