



GCSE Photography

Head of Faculty: Mr A Ashter

Email: A.Ashter@barnwell.herts.sch.uk / D.Ledster@barnwell.herts.sch.uk

Why study GCSE Photography?

The aim of the course is to offer students the opportunity to engage in critical and practical understanding in lens-based and light-based photography that encourages a direct engagement with meaningful original work and practice. Exploring new skills, techniques, knowledge and developing an understanding of photography.

What does the course involve?

Students will develop a portfolio of work that strengthens their knowledge and understanding of traditional and lens and light based photography. Ideas are developed through critical understanding, contextual resources and demonstrating an analytical and cultural understanding. Students develop the ability to refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, techniques and processes. Students may explore traditional and studio based photography, discovering how to use a DSLR and lighting effectively, this may follow a structured exam type topic that is based on independent choice combined with a series of topics (portraits; location and studio photography; experimental imagery documental and fashion photography; photo-journalism). Students will have to apply drawing techniques when understanding composition and planning. Finally, the examination board will set a theme, where there will be guided preparatory studies before sitting a ten-hour focused study under examination conditions.

Students will be presenting their work in A3 portfolio files and will document their research, development of ideas and preparatory work. They will have the opportunity to create an online portfolio that is presented in a portfolio alongside professionally presented outcomes combined with larger components of the portfolio. They will be expected to demonstrate practical skills in the context of specific chosen areas of study. Themes and targets will be initially set for the whole class, as students develop they will be encouraged to work independently. Teaching will progressively become one-to-one tuition as students develop their individual creative personalities.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be made aware of the assessment criteria from the beginning and work will be assessed on a continuous basis with written and oral feedback throughout the course. Targets will be set on an individual basis and at strategic points. Students will be given an indication of their current working grade and what they need to do to achieve their targets. **The portfolio of work is weighted at 60% of the final grade; externally set assignment accounts for the remaining 40%.**

The four assessment objectives are:

- Development of ideas through investigations; demonstrating cultural understanding of sources
- Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- Recording ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses
- Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realise intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language

What are my progression routes?

Photography is a very popular choice at A Level, and the GCSE course provides an excellent stepping stone on to further study in Photography. Photography can lead into many Media based professions that can be creative and managerial. Higher education courses offer a wide range of opportunities, such as, Photography:0 Editorial and Advertising, Photojournalism and Documentary Photography, Digital Media, Media Production, Visual Effects for Film and Television.

Additional Information

Students are required to contribute to the running costs of additional specialist process and the on-going printing and paper usage for the creation of a portfolio.