



GCE A-LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

GCE A-Level in Photography

This is a TWO-YEAR COURSE comprising of coursework (60%) and an externally set assignment (40%).

What will you study in Year 12?

The course encourages individuality and self-expression. Students will acquire a wide range of new skills in photography, including both digital and darkroom based practice. They will learn how to develop their ideas and solve problems in a creative way, studying the work of photographers /artists to inform and enhance their progress. Whilst the start of the course involves a broad range of experimentation and learning, students are encouraged to pursue specialist routes that interest them as the course develops. For example: fine art photography; fashion photography; portrait photography; landscape photography; reportage; documentary photography; moving image etc.

We have a very well resourced photography department and you will have access to a range of specialist cameras, lenses and equipment. **You will need to have your own camera** as well though.

Coursework:

You will start your assessed unit of coursework (*the Personal Investigation*) in the summer term of year 12, producing a portfolio of development work and outcomes until January of year 13. This practical component is supported by *the Personal Study*: a critical written communication (1000 - 3000 words) showing contextual research and understanding.

Externally Set Assignment:

In February of year 13 you will receive an externally set assignment that contains a theme and starting points for a project of practical work, culminating in an outcome produced in a 15 hour controlled test.

To find out more visit:

https://www.educas.co.uk/qualifications/art-and-design-as-a-level/#tab_overview

Why choose to study a Photography course?

There are unique opportunities offered in Photography at Tor Bridge High and the subject continues to be an extremely popular choice in the Sixth Form. We can boast an **excellent success rate** with the **majority of students achieving A* to B grades**. It offers extremely good opportunities for **future employment** and **higher education** - where Photography courses continue to have one of the highest success rates for students finding employment directly related to their course of study.

Many students find that Photography gives the perfect balance to other AS/A2 subjects. It provides an alternative way of studying that is both challenging and fulfilling, providing a channel for **personal expression**. An A-Level in Photography can provide a direct route to higher education, but we strongly recommend completing a **Foundation Course** prior to studying a photography-based course at university.

Entry Requirements

All students will be considered on individual merit. Our expectations are that students applying to study these courses will have achieved at least a GCSE grade C or above in this subject (or equivalent Level 2 qualification).

In all cases, entry onto the courses will be on a trial basis and progression will be dependent on performance.

We welcome applications from **enthusiastic students** with a **commitment to study**.

Qualities needed for success: an open mind to new ideas and practices, a genuine interest in the arts and a lot of hard work!!

Useful Resources

Success within all art and design courses requires a broad contextual awareness. Whilst there are no core textbooks, you will have to familiarise yourself with our well resourced Art Library and we encourage you to visit as many galleries and exhibitions as possible. You will benefit from internet research into the work of practitioners in your chosen field, referring to websites such as www.photographyserved.com, www.behance.net and www.1x.com. There are a number of excellent magazine publications that you could read e.g. British Journal of Photography; Creative Review; Art Review; ID; Love Magazine; Vogue etc.

Enrichment Opportunities and Study trips

Enrichment opportunities will enhance and enrich your knowledge and appreciation of the subject - looking at art in a book or on the Internet is a poor substitute for the real thing!

Opportunities will include:

- Visits to local galleries
- Visits to London galleries
- A Residential visit to Europe (Approximately £500 - so start saving!)
- Opportunities to exhibit your work locally and nationally
- Opportunities to work with practising artists, designers and photographers.

Equipment Required for the Course

With most specialist activities the necessary resources will be provided for you, (e.g. Adobe software; SLR /film cameras; camcorders etc.), although **you will be expected to purchase some core equipment/materials in order to complete your work** (e.g. sketchbook; portfolio; glue; craft knife etc.) all of which can be purchased at discounted prices from the art store.

All students MUST have a digital camera in order to succeed on this course.
(You will also benefit from purchasing your own SLR camera)

You are encouraged to **pay for photographic prints** throughout the course and will be required to contribute to the cost of films and photographic paper for darkroom work.

SUMMER WORK:

The following **MUST** be completed to the best of your ability and handed into your teacher in your first lesson in September.

Judgements will be made, regarding your suitability to study this course, based on the quality of your submission - so make it good!!

1. **CHANGE** - produce a series of 6 quality photographs that explore the theme of 'Change'. We are looking for an original, imaginative response - think outside of the box!!
Show how you have developed your ideas through research into other photographers' response to this theme. Show all of your images in a contact sheet. Select your best 6 and explain the reasons for your choices. Images must be printed on photo paper, minimum size = 7" x 5".
2. **Response to an artists work** - take a minimum of 6 images that are inspired by ONE of the photographers listed below. You should aim to capture a similar subject matter, achieve a comparable style, tonal contrast and composition, and use the same colour mode (i.e. colour or black and white). Images must be printed on photo paper, minimum size = 7" x 5". You should write a review of your work, making comparisons with the photographer who inspired you.

Anselm Adams, Andreas Gursky, Andre Kertesz, Edward Steichen, Eugene Atget, Idris Khan, Diane Arbus, Richard Avedon, Angus Mc Bean, Jane Brown, David Seidner