



Mount St Mary's Catholic High School

Educating The Individual For The Benefit Of All

Why Study GCSE Photography?

GCSE Photography will provide a dynamic and enriching learning experience that fosters creativity, critical thinking, and technical proficiency. By empowering students to explore photography as a means of personal expression and cultural reflection, this course aims to inspire lifelong appreciation for the art form and equip students with valuable skills for post 16 courses and career pathways.

The Photography course is suitable for a wide range of students, from those who wish to pursue a career in creative industries, to those who want to develop their capacity to think creatively and critically about the world we live in. Photography and Digital Art is also a great course for those students wishing to balance academic and practical subjects as well as those students who just really enjoy being creative in a practical environment.



Further Study and Future Prospects

Photography GCSE provides the perfect spring board for students to progress to A-Level and University. Studying Photography at GCSE can help you to learn and develop key creative thinking and application skills that help you stand out when applying for Colleges, Universities and jobs. Photography and Digital Art help students question the world around them and think more critically about how they approach different tasks, this is a desirable skill for future employers.

GCSE Photography

Careers Options

The creative industries in the UK are rapidly growing. They contribute £115 billion to the economy and employ over 3 million people. People with creative skills are highly valued in a rapidly changing world of work. There are hundreds of specialisms to choose from and a GCSE in Photography can be the first step on this career path.

- Exhibition design
- Sculptor
- Theatre design
- Creative Art Director
- Game design
- Architect
- Community arts facilitator
- Illustrator
- Photographer and many more
- Product design
- Tattoo artist
- Web design
- Film director
- Animator
- Cartoonist/Comic art
- Graphic design
- Medical illustrator
- Events Management

What you will study

This is a broad skill-based course exploring practical, critical and creative work through a range of specialisms. GCSE Photography gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. You can choose to focus on a specialist area of study from a variety of exciting processes and media to suit your individual interests and abilities. This can result in A-level or degree opportunities and careers ranging from architecture and photography to graphic design, interior design and digital design. If you have an adventurous, creative and enquiring mind, and are excited by practical work and exploring the creative world, then Photography is the course for you.



How is the subject assessed?

AQA Photography GCSE is split into 2 units Unit 1 is worth 60% and Unit 2 is worth 40% of the overall GCSE.

Unit 1

This unit starts in Year 9 with students trying lots of different areas of photography.

- portraiture
- studio photography
- installation
- photo-journalism
- fashion photography
- location photography
- experimental imagery
- documentary photography
- moving image: film, video and animation

Then as part of Unit 1 students complete a full project specialising in one of these areas, with a final piece created at the end of Year 10. At the start of Year 11, students work on developing an area of their choice in a mini project, before starting unit 2 in January. Unit 1 is all coursework and students need to submit a portfolio of work which consists of one complete project from one of the above specialisms as well as a selection of supporting work from one other specialist area.

Unit 2

This is an externally set unit, in January of Year 11. AQA release several different titles and students choose one of these titles to study. Students then explore the title choosing one specialist area and create a final piece at the end of the project.

For further information contact:

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