



GCE A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

INTRODUCTION

Photography has been used by practitioners to record, document and present examples of everyday life, in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. It is a wonderful form of communication which can create a narrative and evoke emotion. It is used to convey personal identity more widely than any other art form, it is applied in the creative process across art and design and is widely used in social, commercial and scientific contexts.

WHY STUDY PHOTOGRAPHY?

The study of Photography will deepen your understanding of the visual world across different times and cultures and introduce you to the diverse roles and functions of Photography in contemporary life. The study of Photography can lead to a wide range of University/College courses and to career opportunities in the creative industries. Photography is important because all sectors of the job market require creative thinkers who can innovate, see and make connections, solve problems and make informed decisions and judgements. This course will give you many transferable skills you can use in the future.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To start Sixth Form Photography Studies it is recommended that pupils have achieved 5 GCSEs at grade C or above. There are no additional entry requirements for the Photography course but students should be aware that, in addition to the practical elements, the A Level includes analytical and critical understanding and demands high quality written work.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of photographic media, genres, techniques and processes. They will be made aware of both traditional and new technologies and will explore relevant images and resources relating to Photography and a wider range of art and design, from the past and from recent times, including European and non-European examples.

At Laude The Lady Elizabeth School we teach the two year, linear A level course in Photography as we believe that completing the two year course, and being assessed at the end, will both enhance our students chance of success and improve their understanding of the subject. Students who choose to study GCE A Level Photography from September 2016 will be entered for examination in May/June 2018.

We follow the Edexcel GCE A Level Syllabus for Photography and offer the following two disciplines:

- digital photography
- film and video.

Students will be required to work in one or more of the disciplines to communicate their ideas. By working across disciplines, they will extend their understanding of the scope of photography; by focusing on one discipline, they will gain a deeper understanding of specific processes within photography.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Students will develop integrated knowledge, skills and understanding of the following:

- the principles of digital photography, including the pixel and digital processing
- viewpoint, white balance, composition, focus, aperture, shutter speed, exposure, shooting modes, histograms

- the use and qualities of image acquisition hardware and software, image manipulation and analogies between digital and other forms of photography
- the relationships between colour and tone for screen and print-based media, screen calibration, colour gamut, file formats such as raw, jpeg, tiff, png
- the use of a range of source material, software and hardware in the generation and development of ideas

FILM AND VIDEO

Students will develop integrated knowledge, skills and understanding of the following:

- synopsis, storyboards, scripting, camera angles, viewpoints, length of shot, cutting, composition, cropping and pacing, which may include computer-generated ideas and developments
- qualities and functions of various film and video formats, such as, digital video, HD, 4K, .flv, .mov, .wmv, animated gif
- the use of sound, narration and storyline and their relation to moving images
- editing, including knowledge of the variety of ways in which images might be juxtaposed to create appropriate effects, such as in-camera editing, non-linear, offline edits etc.

AREAS OF STUDY

Students will be required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas or identify their own particular area:

Portraiture / landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment) / still life photography (working from objects or from the natural world) / documentary photography, photojournalism / fashion photography / experimental imagery / multimedia / photographic installation / moving image (video, film)

STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE

The course is structured to provide a “Foundation” type course that covers all areas of the syllabus for the first six months. It is designed to give students hands-on experience in digital photography and film and video from which they will be able to make an informed decision about the area they wish to specialise in for their Personal Investigation.

Students will also be given a wide range of assignments which are designed to familiarise them with the content and assessment objectives of the A Level Course. These assignments not only include different photographic techniques and genres but the students are required to research the topic extensively and to provide written critical analysis of their work and processes.

Throughout the course students will also:

- develop a personal digital portfolio which is designed to showcase their coursework and will form part of their final presentation.
- Produce a physical Photographic Coursework book (work journal) in which they record ideas and thought processes, photographic shoot planning, locations, camera angles, trial shots etc. This will also be presented to the Examination Board at the end of the course as an indication of the student’s progress and development.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is based on both coursework and a final examination:

COMPONENT 1 (60% of the total qualification) incorporates three major elements: supporting studies, practical work, and a personal study.

COMPONENT 2 (40% of the total qualification) The Externally Set Assignment incorporates two major elements: preparatory studies and the 15-hour period of sustained focus (exam)

FACILITIES

At Laude The Lady School we have a well-equipped Photography Room with studio facilities, photographic lighting, 2 DSLR cameras, a Go-Pro Hero, smartboard and the full Adobe Creative Cloud Suite allowing student access to the most up to date related programmes such as Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere Pro, Illustrator, After Effects etc.

CAREER AND PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Many students will continue their study of photography at university, either as a single subject degree or as part of a wider degree such as Media or Marketing. Possible career options include: Advertising, Graphic Design, Fashion Industry, Film & Television Production, Fine Art, Marketing, New Media, Publishing and Web Design, Freelance Photography / Photojournalism

CONTACT: If you would like more information about the course or have any questions please contact Miss Stefi Ash, Teacher of Photography, by email to s.ash@laudeladyelizabeth.com