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| Photography GCSE |
| Exam Board | AQA | Course Code | 8206 |
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| Outline of course | Year 9 will cover the basics, looking at the history of photography and putting it into context; compositional techniques, which are vital for any beginner. Students will study how to use smart phone cameras and basic editing apps. There will be an Introduction to DSLR cameras and their basic functions. They will also explore a range of photographic genres from portrait, landscape, sport, food and macro. Students will begin to develop their skills and knowledge with Adobe Photoshop and learn how to edit their photographs. They will also start to explore how a project is put together from start, middle to end.Year 10 students begin to put together their ‘Portfolio’ of work. Students undertake a project exploring the theme of ‘Close Up’ with sub units exploring Depth of Field, Viewpoint, Shutter Speed & Lighting. This allows students to understand how a project is structured in photography and how they go on a journey from beginning to end. They have the opportunity to develop and refine their practical photography skills acquired in Y9 and develop their digital editing skills with Photoshop. This is all underpinned by exploring photographers work through contextual studies.Y11 builds on year 10 and completes the students Portfolio. Students undertake a short project exploring a theme, which consolidates the students’ photographic skills. In January students begin their exam preparation work for 12 weeks on the run up to their 10-hour exam. Themes are set by the exam board and the students have a choice of 7 different themes. They will sit their final exam just after Easter.In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of photography, such as those listed below:portraiturelocation photographystudio photographyexperimental imageryinstallationdocumentary photographyphoto-journalismmoving image: film, video and animationfashion photography.They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.Within the context of photography, students must demonstrate the ability to use photographic techniques and processes, appropriate to students’ personal intentions, for example:• lighting• viewpoint• aperture• depth of field• shutter speed and movement• digital processes |
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| Method(s) of Assessment | The course is split into 60% NEA and 40% exam. The NEA demonstrates the student’s ability to develop and refine their skills and work produced. For the exam, students start with preparation work before completing a ten hour exam. |
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| Choose this subject if.. | You want to explore photography as an artistic medium and potential career path |
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| Possible careers/ future pathways | * [Film/video editor](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/film-video-editor)
* [Graphic designer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/graphic-designer)
* [Magazine features editor](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-features-editor)
* [Medical illustrator](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/medical-illustrator)
* [Photographer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/photographer) (portrait, product, commercial, wildlife, fashion, sport, food, wedding)
* [Press photographer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/press-photographer)
* [Television camera operator](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/television-camera-operator)
* [Art therapist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/art-therapist)
* [Digital marketer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/digital-marketer)
* [Media planner](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/media-planner)
* [Multimedia specialist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/multimedia-specialist)
* [Museum/gallery curator](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/museum-gallery-curator)
* [Stylist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/stylist)
* [VFX artist](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/vfx-artist)
* [Visual merchandiser](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/visual-merchandiser)
* [Web content manager](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-content-manager)
* [Web designer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-designer)
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