



Art Photography GCSE

GCSE	9-1	AQA
Who is this course aimed at?	This is an option subject for any student with an interest in the creative arts. There are no entry criteria, but you must be enthusiastic and self-motivated. It will provide a good foundation for further study at A-level and would be vital for pursuing a career within all areas of the creative industries.	
How will I be assessed?	You will submit 3 units of coursework which makes up 60% of your overall mark. Coursework begins as soon as you start lessons in year 10. You will produce final pieces for each unit of coursework and record all your ideas and experiments in your digital sketchbook. There will be an ESA (Externally Set Assignment) in year 11 (10 hours spread over 2 days). This makes up the other 40% of your overall mark.	
Will I enjoy the course?	You are most likely to enjoy this course if you have a genuine enthusiasm for Photography as a creative art. You will be required to experiment with a range of media and materials and try techniques you may not have tried before such as using a darkroom and digital editing software.	
What will be expected of me?	Students are expected to work hard and be self-motivated. Good quality photography work takes time to produce, and you must be patient and thoughtful in your approach. You will be regularly expected to come up with your own ideas and responses for your projects and to respond creatively to given start points.	

What will I study?

Year 10 Unit 1 – Skills – The Visual Elements	You will complete a series of min projects which will allow you to explore and learn key photographic skills and explore the visual elements of photography. These will include traditional darkroom and film photography, digital editing, manual image manipulation and the History of Photography as an Art form.
Year 10 Unit 2 and 3 - Thematic response	You will use the skills learnt in Unit 1 to explore your own ideas relating to a given theme and produce a final piece of your choice. Examples of these include Portraits and Structures.
Year 11 Unit 4 - Mock ESA	You will produce your own response to one of the starting points from the previous year's ESA paper. You will have the same times and preparation period as an actual ESA project. This will be good practice for the real controlled ESA project in Spring. Examples of these include Fragments, Lock and Surfaces.