



Art Photography GCSE

GCSE

9-1

AQA

Who is this course aimed at?	This is an option for any student with an interest in 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.
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 starting points. Doing work outside of lesson time, such as taking photographs, will be important for the development of your work.

What will I study?

Year 10 - Coursework Unit 1 – Skills – The Visual Elements and Structures	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. You will learn how to use Photoshop and a Digital camera.
Year 10 - Coursework Unit 2 –Thematic Response - Identity	You will use the skills learnt in Unit 1 to explore the theme of Identity through a range of different Photographic techniques. You will learn how to use studio equipment, digital, and manual editing. You will use your research and experiments to produce a final piece.
Year 11 - Coursework Unit 3 - Mock ESA	You will produce your own response to one of the starting points from the previous year's ESA paper. This will be good practice for the real controlled ESA project in Spring. Examples of these include Fragments, Spaces and places, and Surfaces.
Year 11 - ESA	You will complete an independent project based on a question released by AQA in Jan 2027.