



Overview	<p>AQA GCSE Photography in Year 11 involves creating a portfolio of photographic work (60% of the final grade) and completing an externally set assignment (ESA - 40% of the final grade). Students explore various photographic techniques, experiment with digital and physical methods, and develop their personal style. The course encourages research, experimentation, and the development of final outcomes. The course encourages experimentation with different techniques, materials, and processes. Students learn about the historical, contemporary, social, and cultural contexts of photography. The course aims to develop students' confidence, critical thinking, and ability to express their own ideas through photography. The ESA is completed in a 10-hour exam at the end of April/beginning of May.</p>
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Autumn Term	<p>Projects this term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Colour Splash ■ Double Exposure and Portraits <p>Skills used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Colour splash techniques on PhotoPea ■ Black and White images ■ Tone and Contrast ■ Exposure ■ Highlights and Shadows ■ Double Exposure 	<p>Assessment</p> <p>In GCSE Photography, students are assessed on four key areas: research and contextual investigations (AO1), refining and developing ideas through experimentation (AO2), recording ideas and observations (AO3), and presenting a personal and meaningful final piece (AO4). The final grade is determined by a 60% coursework component and a 40% externally set assignment with a 10-hour controlled test.</p>
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Spring Term	<p>Externally Set Assignment (ESA) worth 40%</p> <p>In January, students receive the ESA paper from the exam board, which contains a variety of starting points. Students choose a starting point and develop their response through research, experimentation, and the creation of preparatory work in their e-portfolios. Students must use the work of photographers and other craftspeople to gather information and link to their own work to create a personal response which will be produced in a 10-hour practical exam. In the exam, students will edit images they have taken in line with their starting point. They will evaluate and annotate as they progress through the controlled test and be able to analyse each edited image.</p>	<p>Assessment</p> <p>The GCSE Photography specification is assessed against four assessment objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ AO1: Developing ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical and contextual understanding. ■ AO2: Refining work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques, and processes. ■ AO3: Recording observations, insights, and ideas relevant to their chosen area of study. ■ AO4: Presenting a personal and meaningful response that realizes their intentions, demonstrating understanding of visual language.
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Summer Term	<p>10 hour exam – usually at the end of April/beginning of May.</p> <p>All work from year 10 and 11 should be handed in for marking as the 10-hours begins – no work can be completed on the portfolio when the exam has started.</p>	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Both components are marked out of 96, with Component 1 contributing 60% and Component 2 contributing 40% to the final grade. ■ Teachers use the assessment criteria provided by the exam board to assess student work against each of the four Assessment Objectives. ■ Schools submit their assessed work to the exam board for external moderation, ensuring consistency in standards.
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Useful Resources for Supporting Your Child at Home:	Homework:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tate – For researching artists we discuss drawing the Formal Art Elements - how to draw still-life – YouTube: Art basics. AQA Art Assessment Objectives ■ TEAMS: All resources will be uploaded to the relevant team. 	<p>Students are expected to go take their own images outside of school using the staring points as their guide. All images must be uploaded to the photography drive to be used in lessons.</p>