



St Paul's Catholic School

A LEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements: Generic A-level entry requirements

Exam Board: Edexcel

The course is designed to be fun, exciting and thought provoking for the students and builds on your individual strengths. It consists of two units:

Coursework:

Thematic enquiry (based on a theme: Environment or Journey). 60% of overall mark.

This unit is concerned with the relationship between exciting ideas and Art & Design practice. Ideas provide the starting point for much Artwork and as work is produced ideas and outcomes will change and develop. You will also have opportunities to develop an understanding of the expressive nature of the formal elements of art and design and express your ideas, creating a personal and engaging sketchbook or portfolio of work. This includes a separate critical study of 1500 words.

Exam:

Theme provided by EDEXCEL exam board.

The question paper for this unit will provide you with one interesting and quite broad starting point, such as 'Icons', 'The Environment', 'Rituals' etc. You will have an eightweek preparation period, during which time you can discuss your work with your teacher. You should undertake investigative preparatory work in your work journals throughout the course. You will also have an exam of ten hours of unaided work.

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In addition to the standard St Paul's entry, requirements, this course also normally requires students to have achieved grade 5 or above in a GCSE Art. Previous photographic experience is useful but not essential, as we start everyone from the very beginning. We will consider applications from students who do not have Art GCSE but can show they have had experience of photography.

What will I learn on this A-Level course?

Studying photography at this level is very different from everyday snap photography. There is a mixture of practical work and writing about photography generally. Teachers and technicians will show you how to use photographic equipment properly, and how it can be exploited creatively. You will be expected to write up your work and present it in a sketchbook, and you need to have access to a camera for working at home. There is a very clear structure to the course, but you will be given the opportunity to interpret ideas in your own way and use your own creativity – there is a lot of scope for your imagination! All the work you do is closely related to the ideas and practice of the great photographers and other relevant artists. The second unit in each year is an examination unit where students respond to themes set by the exam board. Your final piece is produced under test conditions. The second year is concerned with personal investigation and how ideas can be expressed through Photography.



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What kind of student is this course suitable for?

A Level GCE in Photography is suitable for students:

- who wish to study photography, art, craft and design at a higher level usually at art college or further education;
- who are looking to take up careers for which an art background is relevant, for example careers in advertising, publishing, architecture, museums, theatre, art gallery work or teaching / lecturing, illustration, fine art; with an interest in and aptitude for the subject who do not intend to study it further, but who see it as an opportunity for enjoyment, personal growth and expression. Students are entered for Edexcel examinations. There are two units in each year: the second one includes a timed test. All units are internally assessed and moderated by Edexcel.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

Some students' progress to degree courses in Photography itself, but students will find A- level Photography useful in supporting applications for further study in wider fields of Art and Design. The course teaches you the skills of visual communication, which will be a valuable asset in a wide range of careers such as advertising, journalism and teaching.

For Further information, please see Mr Hillier