

Entry requirements / prior knowledge:

This course would suit students who have previously studied a creative subject such as: Art & Design, Photography, Textiles, Resistant Materials, Graphics, or even Media Studies and attained a Level 5. However, this is not mandatory the course is open to all students who have a strong desire and motivation to learn about photography.

Coombe Sixth Form Photography A Level



Photography

What does studying Photography involve?

Photography stimulates creativity and imagination. It provides a visual and direct way of understanding and responding to the world around you.

This course enables you to use and understand digital image making as a form of visual communication, to have confidence in reading and evaluating visual images. You will also develop your ability to experiment and explore a range of photographic processes including using film and developing your own prints in the darkroom. We teach from a fine art perspective – you will be expected to keep a sketchbook, and consistently record your own observations of the world around you, developing this through sustained experimentation and by making connections with a wide range of photographers and artists.

As is the standard in industry, digital image manipulation is taught and used frequently to develop, experiment with and improve photos taken. You will need to be able to research independently and to have your own ideas about issues and your immediate environment - the world in which you live.

What skills will I develop and where could studying Photography lead?

Aside from the obvious essential practical skills, studying Photography develops your creative and visual awareness; the ability to undertake independent research, and to analyse and interpret images. You gain an ability to construct a personal point of view, and discuss this with others. As the subject allows you to express and realise your own ideas, you gain confidence and have the opportunity to exhibit and present your work at the successful summer exhibitions.

Photography A Level is an excellent creative course that enhances research and presentation skills, strengthens understanding of other subjects. It is the pathway into a host of practical and theoretical creative subjects at university level. Most students go on to study an Art Foundation course, which is a one-year course with degree style teaching and facilities, enabling you to specialise your career in the arts, and produce a professional portfolio for entrance onto a degree course.

There are over 5,000 different practical creative courses on offer at degree level, from Computer Games Design to Fashion Design and Fine Art.

Modules that you will cover and assessment details

A Level Photography begins with a six week foundation course followed by three further modules and an exam module in Year 13. Lessons consist of technical knowledge and camera handling, photo shoots, analysis and writing critically about your own and others work, experimenting with and developing ideas, art and photography theory and digital image manipulation using Photoshop.

As the course progresses we encourage students to become increasingly independent. Work is marked internally and then externally moderated.

Which other subjects does it combine well with?

Most students studying Photography are visually creative, and therefore combine this subject with other creative options such as Graphics, Art and Design or Textiles. Due to the use of Photoshop this course would also suit those with strong computer skills.

Similarities between GCSE and A Level

Students will find many similarities between their Year 11 creative subjects and A level work. Studying nine lessons a week, with the same time required for homework is a

big step up, and we expect more rigorous in depth investigation and research. The expectations for the students are also different. We want you to become independent learners, arriving to lessons equipped to learn, with ideas and insights that come from your own perspective. This means that you will need to bring some resources to lessons, and take photographs everyday using your own time.