



## Year 9 Transition into Year 10

<b>Subject:</b> Photography
<b>Examination Title:</b> GCSE Photography (8021)
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<b>Examination Board:</b> AQA
<b>Examination Board Syllabus Website:</b> <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography</a>
<b>Supportive Resources:</b> <p>The AQA website has some very useful information about the course and its structure. We strongly recommend that all students create and use their own Pinterest account. This free, online, image-based search engine allows you to collect and collate boards of relevant images and it is an invaluable tool at GCSE and beyond.</p> <p><a href="https://uk.pinterest.com/">https://uk.pinterest.com/</a></p> <p>Students will also need a Google account to save their images on.</p> <p><a href="https://photos.google.com/">https://photos.google.com/</a></p> <p>Although it is not a necessity, it would be beneficial for students to have their own digital SLR camera and if you would like advice on what camera to buy then please contact either Miss Clarke or Mr Hurd-Thomas.</p> <p>Nothing beats seeing artwork close up and we always encourage students to visit the galleries and exhibitions in Plymouth or elsewhere. In Plymouth we recommend Peninsula Arts (at the base of the Levinsky Building on North Hill), the Museum opposite, and visits to artist and student exhibitions at both Plymouth Art College and the University, to get a taste of local creative practice.</p>

### **Additional information:**

The GCSE Photography course has two main components – coursework and exam. The coursework counts for 60% of the overall mark, and the exam the remaining 40%. The exam preparation time is generally timetabled for 6 weeks in Jan-March in Y11. The rest of the time in Y10 and Y11 is spent on coursework.

Coursework will typically consist of two or three fully developed and completed projects. The exam consists of one project. The only difference between the coursework and the exam are a limited time frame (the exam requires 6 weeks of prep, then 10 hours to make a final piece) and theme (themes for the exam are set externally by the exam board). 75% of the marks in both coursework and exam are for the preparation and development work, and 25% for the final pieces.

Successful work for both coursework and exam requires a complex mixture of skills. To help support a student on the course we recommend asking the following questions:

- Does this project show a journey from the beginning to the end, explaining and showing the development of an idea?
- Are there good examples of observational studies (i.e. photographs) that are relevant to the theme being explored?
- Are there studies that show understanding of relevant work by other artists, including visual emulations or copies of their work, as well as written analysis?
- Do the sheets or sketchbooks show a record of experimenting with techniques, editing and processes, as well as with composition, visual content and different possible meanings of the final piece?
- Does the final piece or pieces link clearly to the ideas and preparation work in the sketchbooks or on the exam prep sheets?
- Is the final piece well made, and technically successful, showing good understanding of formal areas such as tone, texture, colour, perspective, as well as being both personal and original (i.e. not a straight copy of someone else's work or ideas).

In addition to enquiring about and looking through your child's Photography work and talking to them about what they are doing, two other things are crucial to success in this subject.

- Having a space at home in which they can work in their sketchbook and access to resources for presentation, research, editing etc. is immensely useful.
- The ability to travel to locations to make photographs will also be useful.
- Supporting your child to make a regular commitment to working on their photography at home (AT **LEAST** AN HOUR A WEEK – slower paced students will need longer). It is impossible to cram or catch up on Photography course/exam work at the last minute – **SUCCESS REQUIRES A STEADY, ONGOING APPROACH OVER THE WHOLE OF Y10 AND Y11** (the coursework submitted at the end of the course is drawn from the *whole* of the two year period, so quality work is required from Y10 as well as Y11).

All students will clearly receive support from their teacher in lessons. In Photography, especially in Y11, the expectation is that students develop their own ideas and work independently, so feedback is one-to-one and tailored to the individual student. We encourage students to research and find their own supporting artists and to use whatever visual making skills they feel most confident in (even if this is an area not explicitly taught on the course – examples might be making photo editing programmes/film).

Your child will benefit enormously from your interest and support, even if you don't consider yourself to be particularly "creative". Thank you for your time and good luck – you may even end up with something inspiring to hang on the wall!