**Photography**

Learning to understand and use photography has become increasingly relevant in modern times due to the nature of our culture becoming so image led. Studying photography allows you to access the knowledge required to negotiate this visual literacy and become a skilled creator of images that seek to communicate ideas. Visual literacy through image making is an important skill to learn that is relevant to so many different industries and so is a highly transferable skill set.

Alongside giving students the skills to be proficient in this visual language, by studying photography, students will be embarking on a journey of self-expression, where they will be able to use photography to explore other ideas or activities that interest them and express what they think about them visually. The process of making images satisfies our innate human need to make things and as such contributes to the betterment of student’s wellbeing.

At KS4 and KS5, students' study AQA Art and Design: Photography (GCSE or A Level respectively). The course is structured to grow and develop student’s understanding. Students work towards 4 Assessment Outcomes. Students spend time researching artists and analysing their work, responding to their work through their own reproductions and creative outcomes, planning their own final pieces, and then they spend time creating their final pieces. Students work in “strands”, where they work through this process repeatedly, practicing the skills necessary to be successful.

Students learn how to use cameras, how to use lighting in the studio and how to edit photographs using Adobe Photoshop. However, we are proud of our “traditional techniques” provision. Students can experiment with different photography techniques in the darkroom such as cyanotypes and photograms and develop their skills in analysing photographs.

The course includes a variety of teaching methods, including practical workshops in the darkroom, photography studio and digital computer suite, as well as an increasing level of independent study from the students as they develop their personal investigation. Students have the freedom to use the entire department, including all resources and facilities at their own leisure (and pleasure!)

Every year, work is displayed around the school environment, in corridors and offices, classrooms and the main hall. We are always so proud of our students, and displaying their work enables us to showcase the fantastic, artistic talent, demonstrated by our students every day.

**KS4: AQA GCSE Art and Design: Photography**

**KS5: AQA A Level Art and Design: Photography**