

Photography A-Level at Barr's Hill School

Course description

The photography course gives students the opportunity to use both traditional and digital cameras, enabling exploration of state of the art IT software which can be used to enhance/manipulate images digitally and the opportunity to use darkroom facilities/techniques to film develop. Students will be developing their skills and understanding to produce their own ideas and creative theme based photos. The course begins with a six week led 'induction' which explores the use of both digital and traditional methods of photography. This will include contextual links to inspire imagination and develop understanding of thematic work. There will be opportunities to work independently and pursue own creative thinking with the support from teaching staff.

Course content

AS outline:

Component 1: 60% of total marks

This should be at least one extended collection of work, or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue with the opportunity to submit additional work.

Component 2: 40% of total marks

Following a preparatory period, you will undertake 10 hours supervised time to conclude the assignment set by the examining board. You will receive a paper, which includes 5 broad starting points for you to choose from (this will be a starting point for your project).

A2 outline:

Component 1: 60% of total marks

You are required to develop a personal investigation based on an idea, issue or concept or theme, leading to a final outcome supported by written material of no less than a 1000 words and no more than 3000.

Component 2: 40% of total marks.

Following a preparatory period, you will undertake 15 hours supervised time to conclude the assignment set by the examining board. You will receive a paper, which includes 8 broad starting points for you to choose from (this will be a starting point for your project).

Entry requirements

Standard Academic Advanced entry requirements of 5x Grade 5+ including English and Maths

Future opportunities

On a wider theme the subject will enhance your understanding and provide a practical experience of the role, purpose and function of photography in society. Photography and technology are growing constantly with many job opportunities leading to professional photography for magazines, newspapers, fashion, forensics, medical, design and journalism. It is a valuable skill useful in other visual arts and an exciting interest that can be carried on in later life.

Art and Design A-Level at Barr's Hill School

Course description

Art & Design is an excellent course for those students who wish to develop their creative skills in a range of traditional and contemporary practical disciplines. These include drawing and painting, a variety of printmaking methods, digital photography and applications and three dimensional works.

You will be introduced to and experiment with a diverse range of techniques, building on your existing skills and adding new approaches to creating artworks. You will produce an exploratory portfolio, focusing on developing your creative abilities through observational drawing and painting, practical workshops, constructive criticism and tutorials. The A2 year requires a more independent working ethos with a self-directed, investigative project. Throughout the course you will look at the ways other creative people work and gain greater understanding of your own practice, keeping sketchbooks as records of your ideas and learning how to present your work to a high standard. Learning is supplemented with visits to galleries and museums to inform your own work and develop wider contextual knowledge of the arts.

Course content

AS outline:

Component 1: 60% of total marks

This should be at least one extended collection of work, or project, based on an idea, concept, theme or issue with the opportunity to submit additional work.

Component 2: 40% of total marks

Following a preparatory period, you will undertake 10 hours supervised time to conclude the assignment set by the examining board. You will receive a paper, which includes 5 broad starting points for you to choose from (this will be a starting point for your project).

A2 outline:

Component 1: 60% of total marks

You are required to develop a personal investigation based on an idea, issue or concept or theme, leading to a final outcome supported by written material of no less than a 1000 words and no more than 3000.

Component 2: 40% of total marks.

Following a preparatory period, you will undertake 15 hours supervised time to conclude the assignment set by the examining board. You will receive a paper, which includes 8 broad starting points for you to choose from (this will be a starting point for your project).

Entry requirements

Standard Academic Advanced entry requirements of 5x Grade 5+ including English and Maths

Future opportunities

A good pass at A Level will aid progression on to a Foundation Course or BA Honours degree and is an excellent opportunity to expand on the skills learnt.