

Film Studies A-Level at Barr's Hill School

Course description

This two year course introduces students to all aspects of the film industry. Students will study how to analyse film texts and write critically about the thinking behind directorial decisions. In addition, students will investigate how the film industry has developed over time, the crucial role played by stars and how audiences are encouraged to attend the cinema and interpret film narratives.

Course content

The course consists of a combination of course work and external examinations, each worth 50% of the total marks awarded. Coursework centres on critical analysis of film texts/genres from a variety of viewpoints such as psychoanalysis, feminism and sociological viewpoints. Students can choose the films they wish to study and are expected to show a wide appreciation of film types. The examinations require students to demonstrate a knowledge of how the industry makes money, creates stars and promotes films both in Hollywood and in countries around the globe.

Entry requirements

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

Assessment

Each year of the course is divided equally between course work and an external examination. The course work is internally assessed and then verified by an external moderator. The examination is set by the board and marked externally.

Future opportunities

Film Studies is offered at a number of Universities where it can be studied at degree level; many Universities offer students the experience of working within the television industry as part of the third year of the degree course. Students wishing to work within the Media industry, critical journalism or advertising industries would find this subject opens the door to many opportunities in these areas.