

Photography (KS4 only)

Preface:

Photography provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature. At Ormiston Horizon Academy we are concerned about the growth of the whole person and as such, the Art and Photography department plays a fundamental role in the expressive and emotional development of pupils. We hope to enable students to develop an enquiring mind and the skills to express themselves confidently and creatively; with feelings and imagination. By providing a broad range of exceptional quality teaching and learning experiences that are delivered with the best resources we can provide.

The curriculum:

The department prides itself on developing students' photography skills building on composition, colour, content and technical skills. Themes are varied and include still life work, both from the natural world and manufactured objects, work from the figure, portraits and from the environment including architecture and the landscape.

Other photographers' work is an extremely important element influencing the department (including work from a wide range of cultures and traditions). We offer a wide ranging AQA Photography course at GCSE. The department has two large, well equipped art rooms for practical work and photo shoots along with access to computers for editing and presentation purposes. GCSE Photography is a 3 year program beginning in Year 9 with a foundation year to build the key skills necessary to transition into year 10 to begin coursework with appropriate knowledge already in place.

How can I help my child with their photography?

In terms of helping your child to progress in their work, the library has access to the internet as well as books, students are encouraged to use the facilities on offer. All homework is now logged on Show My Homework online that you will have access to.

We are also more than willing for students to use the art room in order for them to complete homework or if they require any assistance with a particular piece of work. Catch up club is Wednesday lunchtime all years.

Key stage 4 COURSE DETAILS (GCSE Photography)

Introduction

In Year 9, students who have opted for GCSE Photography follow a foundation style course. This first year allows students to explore the fundamental skills needed to make a smooth transition into Year 10. The guidelines for Y10 and Y11 coursework are set by exam board AQA and we develop the projects to provide greatest access to all students.

Year 9- Foundation studies

Introduction to photography, core skills, technical skills, editing skills, building a portfolio, using a tripod.

Year 10 & 11

Component 1: Spilt into two projects:

Still life: Focusing on composition of photographs, building editing skills further, and working in the style of other photographers.

Portraits: Elements of a portrait, drawing in photography, working in the style of other photographers, photoshop techniques, physical manipulation of photos.

Component 2: Externally set task (Exam) (final 10 hour exam to be completed early May)

– project set by AQA- only released on Jan 1st of every academic year. Students pick one of the appropriate starting points provided and create a personal project with supervised guidance.

In Year 11, students complete their coursework at the end of the autumn term. From January onwards, they work on their exam project as set by AQA.

THE EXAMINATION

The GCSE course is split into two parts and is weighted 60% coursework and 40% exam. These are each marked individually and the student's final grade is based on both of these grades together.

The GCSE examination is 10 hours (split over two days). They have 10 hours to produce a final outcome based on their exam project started in January.

Assessment overview

Students are consistently assessed throughout the year with final moderation taking place in May.