**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?**

**Photography**

The successful study of Photography at A Level will require students to demonstrate a high level of creativity. Students should have an ability to generate ideas on mass and transfer them into practice. Resilience is a key part of the course, as students will often revisit the same idea multiple times, in order to improve the quality and complexity of the outcome. An interest in IT and creative technology and is beneficial.

**What does the course involve?**

Within the first year, students will learn the basic physics of photography, along with the technical aspects of a DSLR camera. In addition students will cover: Editing software such as Photoshop; lighting and studio techniques; idea generation and project planning; contextual image analysis; image storage and sharing; and basic website design. Within the second year, students build on what they have learnt and generate higher quality images and more complex concepts. This is achieved through deeper self and peer analysis, informed and influenced by contemporary practitioners and techniques. During this year Students will record their deeper understand in writing as well as image.

**What kind of student is this course suitable for?**

This course requires good time management and an ability to transfer ideas into images in a short space of time. An ability to be self-motivated is key, as a substantial section of the marking criteria is concerned with producing a “personal response”. Students who have already have a GCSE in a creative subject tend to apply themselves well, as do those with a recreational interest in Photography. Although owning your own camera is not essential, many students fine that their own equipment and software allows them more freedom and control over what they can produce.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

**Year 2: Component 1 Personal investigation**

Students are required to conduct a practical, independently generated investigation, into an idea, issue, concept or theme, supported by written material. It will be a coherent, in-depth study that demonstrates the student’s ability to construct and develop a sustained line of reasoning from an initial starting point to a final realisation. The investigation must be informed by an aspect of contemporary or past practice of artists and photographers.

**Year 2: Component 2 Externally set assignment**

**Preparatory period - 1st February**

Following receipt of the exam paper, students select one of 8 starting points and develop a set of ideas and images over the following months, showcasing the their skills.

**Supervised time – 15 hours** Following the preparatory period, students must complete 15 hours of unaided, supervised time realising a final conclusion to their project.

For students who are interested in:

* Art and Design
* Project development
* Creative development

**Leading to a career in:**

* The creative industries
* Contemporary design
* Project management
* IT