

Photography: Art and Design

Exam board: Edexcel



Students who study Photography at Chauncy often achieve excellent results. Photography has expanded into a new computer suite to accommodate the interest as the subject grows. The school has 50 bridge cameras for the students to use and created 2 lighting studios within classrooms to enable best practise.

Students will predominately follow a digital path within the course, mirroring current practice. The syllabus offers students the opportunity to study all aspects of photography from aperture and shutter

speeds through to manipulation and printing. Students will also have the opportunity to work with traditional black and white photography in our dark room.

Photography is a versatile discipline that involves the manipulation and application of a range of materials and processes in order to produce outcomes. Students throughout the course will work within a range of different areas in lens and light based media and we support students in digital, traditional and also moving/film based work. As the interest in film and moving images grows we are expanding our knowledge and facilities and students have the opportunity to use the media suite if their work develops in this direction.

Students should incorporate contextual investigation as inspirational starting points for their photography development work. Their studies will be supported by contextual visits to London Galleries. Students will develop their work within all themes of photography from landscape, portraiture and still life and then specialise in their particular area of interest.

The course concludes with an exhibition of their final outcomes in The Gallery at Chauncy, during the summer term where students get to come together and celebrate their achievements with family and friends.

Summary of assessment

Weighting of A Level course	Coursework	Exam
60 % Coursework 40% Exam	50% Personal Project 10% 1000 word essay	40% Externally set project 15 hour sustained focus – Final outcome

	Term	Portfolio	Method of assessment
Year 12	Autumn Term Component 1 Coursework	Induction Period Students given opportunities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating and developing ideas • Researching primary and contextual sources • Recording practical and written observations • Exploring materials, processes, technologies and techniques Introduction to research skills and analysis of sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated

	Spring term Component 1 Coursework	Students given further opportunities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated
	Summer term Component 1 Coursework	Students given further opportunities to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills Students start work on Personal Investigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated
Year 13	Autumn term Component 1 Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students continue with personal investigation • Personal study - 1000 word essay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated
	Spring term Component 2 Exam	Externally set assignment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory studies – Sketchbook/ Presentation boards. • 15 hour period of sustained focus – Final outcome. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated
	Summer term Component 2 Exam	Students complete the Externally Set Assignment Students finish their Personal Investigation and present work for the exhibition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Externally set • Internally marked • Externally moderated

Frequently asked questions

Do I have to have studied Photography at GCSE?

To be considered for a place on the course you should obtain a C grade or above at GCSE. Those students that would like to study A level Photography, but have not obtained a GCSE C grade, will still be considered and interviewed, students will be then expected to attend an 'Access to A level' course to build and develop essential skills.

How much written work is involved?

The course does involve some written work in the form of sketchbook annotations. Within the second year of the course there is a personal study essay of 1000 words (min).

Do I need to buy a camera or art materials?

You will not need to supply your own camera as the department can supply you with one in lesson as well as to borrow for the weekend. The photography and art department are well equipped with materials that are available to students. However, if specialist materials are required then students may have to source them independently.

Will this course help me to get a place at college or university?

These courses will give you the opportunity to build an experimental portfolio to show case student skills and creative abilities. Work created by the students is then used during the interview process in order to gain a place on degree courses or other higher education qualifications.

Will I get a good grade?

The photography department is highly supportive of all students, we have high expectations and students work well to achieve their desired result. Students are encouraged to direct their own choice of study in photography, alongside the syllabus requirements and because of this results are original and exciting.

L Garratt, Head of Art

