

A Level Photography AQA



Find out more



LINEAR

Why study Art?

Here at Tretherras we offer a wide range of opportunities and experiences for students within Photography. We believe it is important to offer a range of processes and techniques for students to explore. Everything from: traditional darkroom and wet based photography techniques, camera-less photography such as pinhole, photograms, and cyanotype, moving image, animation, fine art experiments, installation and web site presentation.

Under-pinning our courses and projects is the importance of introducing students to the multitude of influence out there in the world of Art today: from historical to contemporary, local to global the world of photography is changing and evolving, and we want our Art department, and our students work to reflect that. Photography students at Tretherras are fortunate to have access to a vast range of facilities, we have 3 large traditional art rooms equipped with every resource under the sun. We have 2 professional standard PC suites and Photography classrooms running Adobe Creative Cloud software. We are equipped with a professional Photography studio as well as a darkroom for traditional film and wet based Photography.

We strongly believe in our role of developing independent and motivated creative thinkers ready to embark on their next steps to university or the world of work in the creative industries which is an important part of the economy in the Southwest.

About the course

A Level Photography develops a student's skills, knowledge, and critical understanding of the World of Photography. We offer a two-year linear A Level. During the first year there is no externally assessed coursework or exam, this year is for experimentation, skills development and exploring new ideas and ways of working. In the second year we study two components, the first a personal investigation which is the student's coursework and comprises 60% of their grade, the second is their EST or exam component comprising 40% of their grade.

Year 12

The first part of Year 12 students will embark on a teacher led foundation course designed to challenge their skills and knowledge. This will be based around mini projects with themes such as 'Portrait of a Place', Portraiture, Movement and Surrealism. These themes are vehicles for students to learn how to explore a range of materials, processes, and concepts. They will work with everything from Nikon 3500 DSLR's, Photoshop and Illustrator software, 35mm film cameras and dark room processes, Studio Flash Photography using Elinchrome D-Lite kit and learn to present work on Web platforms. The second part of the year is given to the students to practice developing a sustained project they design themselves in preparation for their personal investigation in Year 13. This will help them with independent thinking and time management skills.

No work is externally assessed in Year 12.

Year 13

In Year 13 students start their personal investigation this is a piece of coursework that is designed by the students and comprises 60% of their grade, this is a sustained project that shows an in-depth study of an idea, concept or theme of their choice, accompanied by a 3000-word essay that demonstrates their critical and analytical thinking of their own work as it evolves. The second component is their EST or exam, comprising 40% of their grade. This is set by the exam board and is usually a choice of seven questions which act as starting points to themes and ideas. The students choose one and work on preparatory work from February until the start of May where they then sit a 15-hour exam. All work from February and the 15-hour exam is assessed.

Assessment

Assessment is through the personal investigation component (coursework) 60% and the exam 40% and all takes place in Year 13. Work is assessed across 4 Assessment Objectives. See website for details.

Entry criteria

Students are expected to have gained a grade 6 at GCSE or a very strong grade 5 with the endorsement of their GCSE teacher. Students who have not taken the subject at GCSE should present a portfolio for consideration.

Outside the classroom

We believe that it is important for Photography student's education to take them to see artwork in the context of museums and galleries. Trips to London, St Ives, and Plymouth are a regular part of our calendar. We also work with local Photographers on projects with students, this gives them the chance to work alongside professional photographers. Photographers involved have been Karl Mackie, Alan Forrester and Adj Brown.

