

EDUCATION EVOLVED

Photography

What are the Entry Requirements?

- A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades C/4 or above (including English Language). Level 2 vocational qualifications (e.g. BTEC/OCR) must be a merit grade or above and only one will count as one GCSE equivalent.
- GCSE Photography or Art is desirable but NOT essential. If you have not taken a creative subject before, please speak to one of the Photography teaching staff at enrolment.
- You will be asked to do a Transition Task before starting the course. This must be completed before enrolment. Plenty of advice will be available at our New Student Day or online. DSLR Cameras are required for this course. Further Information is available.

How is the Course Structured?

40% Externally Set Task

60% Coursework

This is the new specification studied through OCR Art & Design: Photography and it is a 2 year course.

The course is largely digitally based but students are given the opportunity to produce some work in the darkroom and are encouraged to experiment with mixed media processes.

First Year

During the first year of the A-level you will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with several different methods of image making. These vary from 160 year old processes of traditional photography, to contemporary digital photography. This year is about building up your skills and being able to truly enjoy and understand the magic of photography. There are internal deadlines and assessments but there are no exams in the first year. Progression onto the second year is based on students' performance in the first year.

Second Year

This year is where you use the skills and areas of interest developed in the first year, and apply them to 2 units to meet the exam board criteria / marking:

Unit 1 - : Personal investigation

Learners should produce two elements:

- Portfolio of Practical Work showing their personal response to either a starting point, brief, scenario or stimulus, devised and provided by the learner or teacher. This means that you can choose the topic that you want to do.
- Related Written Study: a minimum of 3000 words response to your chosen topic.

Unit 2 - Externally set task

The exam board will release the Exam papers on the 1st February and will provide learners with a number of themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points, briefs and stimuli. Learners will then produce a project based on one of these that they choose. In preparation for the exam they will produce back-up work and the exam is simply a practical session to produce their final pieces.

Unit One	Unit Two
Personal Investigation	Externally Set Task
60% of A level	40% of A Level

What are the - Fees & Costs

This course does incur cost throughout the year for producing coursework and final pieces. Although work can be produced solely digitally for the exam board, it is our experience that students generally prefer to produce their work physically hence the costs for such things as printing, paper and mounting materials. There are no guideline prices as to what a student spends in a year because it is completely dependent on their choices for presentation. For example an A3 photo Ink jet will cost £2.00 including the paper – some students will make a set of 3 and another student might choose to produce a set of 12. It is important that you understand that there is likely to be a financial commitment to this course, again the exact amount is determined by the independent projects created by each student.

To assure that all students are starting off together with the same resources, we request that each student pay a 'Studio Fee' of £80 in their first year. Students will then be given their own resources for building and storing their coursework portfolio. This also contributes to the cost of chemicals, photographic papers as well as mounting materials which students will need from the start of the year. As we are buying it in bulk it reduces the cost per individual. The cost covers general materials, if a student decided to do a specialist technique; they would need to supply their own materials for it. This payment should be paid by 15th of September and should be made through your WisePay account.

What equipment do I need?

Must Have:

The camera must be a DSLR (digital single lens reflex) with a standard lens. This means that you will be able to control the camera fully. Other types of cameras like compact and bridge cameras have limited capabilities and are not suitable for this course.

It does not have to be the most expensive camera or a particular brand – the cheapest DSLR is fine. Memory Card that suits your camera.

Not Essential – but can be useful

External Flash
Tripod
Extra lenses
Photoshop

Printing of course work and final pieces can generate extra costs – students on average spend a minimum of £10 per half term on this course. Students also have the option to present their work digitally.

Is there any financial help?

Financial help for Creative Arts Fees/trips, for new and returning students, may be available through the College's Bursary Fund. The Bursary Manager, can be contacted on the main college number and will also be in college throughout the summer break if you would like to find out if you are eligible for financial support.

Do you go on any trips?

We run a number of trips throughout the year to support student's coursework. The trips are compulsory and we appreciate prompt payment and return of information slips for these events.

We have organised the following trips this year:

Gallery visit and photo marathon shoot approx cost £15
Gallery visit to London or other venue – approx cost £20

Nov 2018
June 2019

Can you give any advice on buying a camera?

Where NOT to buy from or get your camera

We do not suggest that you buy your camera online as in the event of damage or a malfunction, it can take up to 8 weeks to rectify the situation. That means that you could possibly be without a camera for a whole term.

After a multitude of incidents where students borrow cameras from family or friends throughout the year but often don't have access to it when they need it, we highly recommend that students are the sole owners of their camera to avoid this happening.

Where to buy from

- Buy Local – better/faster after care and support.
- Secondhand is fine to buy (just get a guarantee).
- Jessops – Bristol and Bath - <http://www.jessops.com/storefinder>
- London Camera Exchange - www.lcegroup.co.uk
3 Baldwin St., Bristol 0117 929 1935
53 The Horsefair, Bristol, 0117 927 6185
- PC World - www.pcworld.co.uk 0844 561 0000
Unit D, 150 Winterstoke Rd, Bristol
Cabot Circus, Bristol
Unit 1 Cribbs Causeway Retail Park, Patchway, Bristol
- Currys - www.currys.co.uk - 0844 561 0000
Unit 3, Avonmeads Retail Park, Bristol

We highly recommend that you register (for free) your camera on the Immobilise website. This is the National Property Register - www.immobilise.com

Are there Homework and Deadlines?

Homework will be set on a regular basis and students will be asked to submit work at the end of every project. We expect students to spend up to 4 ½ hours of independent study for this subject every week and students who do not submit work of an acceptable standard and on time may be asked to leave the course.