**Photography Handbook**

**St Brendan’s Sixth Form College**

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 enrollment.
* 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.

**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 course you will complete a series of workshops alongside shorter and longer projects to explore and experiment with several different methods of image making; developing the photographic and creative thinking skills needed to work independently in the second year. 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**

In the second year you will choose your own areas of study, developing a project based on a theme or genre of your choosing, building upon the knowledge and skills learnt in the first year. The work is much more independent with advice and guidance from teachers. You are also required to produce a written study exploring their theme or genre as part of your Personal Investigation

Unit 1 : **Personal investigation** •

Learners should produce two elements:

(i)  **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.

(ii) **Related Written Study:** a minimum of 1000 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 final pieces.

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

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 – 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 £35 at the start of their first and second year. This 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.

|  |  |
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| **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 * It does not have to be the most expensive camera or a particular brand – the cheapest DSLR is fine. |

Printing of course work and final pieces can generate extra costs – students tell us, that on average they spend about £8 per project on this course.

* \*\* Students have the option to present their work digitally.

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.

**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.

**Where NOT to buy from or get you 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](http://www.lcegroup.co.uk/) [www.lcegroup.co.uk](http://www.lcegroup.co.uk)
  + 13 Cheap street, Bath, BA1 1NB, tel: 01225 462234
  + 42 Park Street, Bristol, BS1 5JG, tel: 0117 927 6185
* [PC World](http://www.pcworld.co.uk/)- [www.pcworld.co.uk](http://www.pcworld.co.uk)
* [Currys](http://www.currys.co.uk/) - [www.currys.co.uk](http://www.currys.co.uk) - 0844 561 0000

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

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.

**Transition Task**

**To be completed and brought to your first lesson in a digital format on memory stick or e-mailed to yourself.**

## PHOTOGRAPHY Transition Task

In preparation for starting you’re A Level photography course in September 2021 we would like you to complete a Transition Task which will cover both practical and written aspects of the course. This assignment gives you the opportunity to use any camera over the summer as well as introducing you to some famous photographers and useful websites. The work you produce will be part of your **entry requirement** for the course and if not completed you may not have a place on the course. We just want you to do your best and we will teach you the rest.

**Task 1 - Glossary**

In photography we use many analytical and technical terms. Please research the following words in relation to photography and provide a definition. Try and use some of these terms in task 2.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Focus | Contrast | Composition | Depth of field |
| Leading line | Rule of thirds | Juxtapose | Exposure |
| Pattern | Tone | Texture | Context |

**Task 2 -** **Research**

We would like you to look at images by all of the following photographers and perhaps read a little about them before you go to task 3.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Diane Arbus | Annie Leibovitz | Don McCullin | Man Ray |
| Daido Moriyama | Elliot Erwitt | Corinne Day | Sebastiao Salgado |

**Task 3 – Analysis**

Chose one of the listed photographers above. Find an example of their work and write about it. Use the following words from the glossary and the guidelines below to help you.

**The content** – what is the picture of, who is in it, what is happening?

**The context** – when was it taken, why was it taken, how does it link to events of the time, what was it used for?

**Your comments**– what do you think makes this a successful image?

Present on an A4 page including the image and your writing.

**Task 4 Photography Task:**

Choose an object that holds special meaning to you and take it on a walk/journey. Photograph it in a variety of locations thinking carefully about the scale, colour, scene etc. Produce a series of 15 well composed digital images that create a sense of narrative for your object – like a story. You can use a childhood toy, favourite mug, item of clothing, ornament etc.

The images you submit will be taken specifically for this project and put into a PowerPoint/digital document.

**Hints & Tips**

* Avoid repetition = vary how you photograph e.g. close ups, wider scenes, depth of field (blurry backround) etc.
* Locations = Try a variety of locations- in the home, on the bus, out in the city or nature etc.
* Explore interesting camera angles, think about the background and how you can create a sense of narrative.
* Experiment with different settings.

This is an opportunity for you to show us what you can already do and show off your technical, aesthetic and creative skills, as well as demonstrating your interest in the subject. You can use any camera for this project.

**You will need to have this PowerPoint or digital document ready to access in your first Photography lesson (either USB stick or via an email attachment – send to your new college email account)**

We look forward to seeing what you produce!

*The Photography Course Leader*

*Sarah Klein*

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