



## PHOTOGRAPHY A LEVEL AQA

The Year 12 Photography course consists of two components: 'Photographic Processes' and a 'Personal Contextual Study' where students are encouraged to explore a photographer(s) and theme of their own choice. In Year 13, pupils are encouraged to pursue personal lines of enquiry and a set exam-based theme. Pupils also curate their own end-of-course exhibition. In addition, there is an array of museum and exhibition visits, talks and workshop days with visiting artists. We encourage our students to regularly visit museums and galleries and attend talks outside of school.

The Art & Photography Department is housed in the Beardwood Creative Arts Centre and consists of three spacious, light-filled studios and a separate photography studio and dark room. Further facilities include a digital area with a full adobe suite, a printmaking, screen-printing area, and a kiln.

Both Art and Photography are supportive subjects for all areas of academic work and, for many students, are seen as enriching elements of their broader education. Even students who do not intend to continue creative arts at higher education level – like some of our medicine students – quite often keep Art or Photography as an option in Year 13.

To see updates from the Art & Photography Department, follow @colfesart on Instagram

### The course

#### Year 12:

#### **Component 1a: Foundation portfolio. Introduction to Photographic processes.**

You will be introduced to a range of experimental processes and techniques in the darkroom and analogue photography including lens less and pinhole photography.

- You will learn how to use a manual SLR camera, load and shoot a film and develop your images in the darkroom.
- You will learn how to compose pictures and to use an SLR Digital camera.
- You will learn how to edit your images using PhotoShop and other digital editing platforms.
- You will learn how to set up, take pictures in the studio exploring portraiture and still life and edit these in Photoshop or develop your images in the darkroom.
- You will explore a range of photographic themes to produce a portfolio and set up your own website to display your work.
- You will also complete a personal study, which is a research-based project of your own choice + a 3000 word essay. This will be used as a means of assessment for the GCiE.

- **Year 13:**

**Component 1b: Personal investigation.  
(Components 1a & 1b = 60% of A-level)**

During this year, you will explore personal areas of enquiry or themes in response to your personal study. You will be expected to show a greater range of understanding and creative skills building upon your prior learning in Year 12. You will complete a portfolio of work and an outcome and you will be able to show your journey of ideas and understanding of other artists work in relation to your own practice as an artist.

**Component 2: Externally set  
assignment (40% of A-level)**

By this point you will have developed a set of practical skills and be able. You will receive a question paper in February and will use your preparation time to build upon the skills and processes that you have already learnt by exploring themes and ideas that interest you in response to the exam board question paper. You will produce a piece or pieces of work over a 15-hour exam.

**Photography A-Level and beyond.**

For those students planning to continue with higher education courses in the creative arts, we offer guidance with applications to art foundation and degree courses, and help to develop their portfolios in support of those applications. A-level Art and Photography students at Colfe's often go on to study degrees in Fine Art, History of Art, Architecture, Graphic Design, Advertising and Marketing, Animation, Set Design, Photography, game design, fashion design and more.