

ST MARY'S COLLEGE



INTRODUCTION

The Art Department courses provide students with the opportunity to develop their individual creative practices across a range of disciplines. The department caters for the practice and understanding of Art & Design while fulfilling the requirements of the examination syllabuses for those who have specific qualification needs.

AS LEVEL

Content

The course begins by being tightly structured and directed through projects, assignments, discussion, tutorials etc. As the course progresses students have increased freedom to define their own study programme with individual work assignments being devised under guidance. The aim of the department is to develop the creative potential of each student.

The AS course lasts one year and is made up of two units:

- Unit Photography coursework
- Unit Photography externally set assignment

How is the course delivered?

The course is mainly practical but includes some written history and analysis modules. Students are encouraged to attend extra 'support' sessions which are offered at various times during the week



Entry requirements

You do not need to have studied photography or art at GCSE, however, it does help if you have some creative background. Please note that the entry requirements for an AS programme depend upon the number of AS/GNVQ courses that you intend to take.

What skills and interests do I need?

You should have an adventurous and enquiring approach to Photography. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary Photographic practice and be able to produce Photographic artwork that embraces a range of ideas.

How does it build upon studies in Key Stage 4?



The AS and A Level courses are intended to form part of an educational continuum which progresses naturally from GCSE and is intended to meet the needs of the following groups of candidates:

- 1 Those who will undertake further studies in Art & Design (these students will also produce a personal portfolio of work for Higher Education entry requirement).
- 2 Those who will study subjects or take up careers in which Art and Design background is relevant, eg Architecture, Photography, Fine Art, etc.
- 3 Those, who whilst having interests and aptitude in the subject are not intending to study the subject beyond Advanced level but will use their 'A' Level qualification for entry into a wide range of University and Further Education courses.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment of all modules takes place at the end of the course.

A2 LEVEL

Content

The A2 course follows on from the AS and looks at issues raised previously in more depth, as well as introducing some new ones. It consists of two modules and lasts one year. As with all A2 courses, A2 Photography is more demanding than the AS.

The course consists of two modules

- Unit 3 Photography coursework
- Unit 4 Photography externally set assignment

How is the course delivered?

The teaching methods used will be similar to those employed within the AS. However, it will be expected that students have developed as independent learners and thus be able to take more responsibility for their own learning.

Entry requirements

A pass grade in AS Photography.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment of all modules takes place at the end of the course.

Progression routes

Students use their 'A' Level success and portfolio work as part qualification for entry into a wide variety of careers and Higher Education courses - not necessarily Photography or Art based. In recent years students have gained direct entry onto University courses to study a range of subjects including Fine Art, Architecture, Photography, Textile Design and Product Design. Many students use their 'A' Level background to move on to Foundation courses in Art and Design, while others gain entry to Higher Education or employment unrelated to Art & Design.

Further Information

For further information please contact Rhys Baker

Full specifications can be found at www.edexcel.org.uk

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