

Photography @ WBS Year 13 Roadmap

Subject Aim:

This course will ensure that students develop an exciting and extensive range of creative and technical skills. Students will build on their year 12 understanding of historic and contemporary visual art practice, through supporting contextual studies. Unique to studying Photography at A Level, students will build up a very personal and continually evolving body of practical work, guided and supported by their teachers. Individual exploration and development of their personal skills and creative directions is a special aspect of this subject. Students will build on previous evaluation and analytical skills to emulate artists' work. Students build on skills learnt in year 12 and widen their skill set further. To understand the Assessment Objectives and how to develop a Personal Portfolio. To create a large section of work for the coursework portfolio (NEA), worth 60% of the final grade. To experience preparation for a 15-hour practical exam which is externally set by the exam board. Students are set new attainment targets in relation to the A-Level grading system, so that they know how they can improve.

TOPIC 1

Developing the Personal Investigation project and Personal Study Essay

Students will work to conclude their personal investigation theme. A series of sustained pieces of work will develop into each other with all necessary preparation, experimentation and demonstration of student's skills. The personal study essay will be completed in full draft form and be marked at three separate intervals before the Christmas break. To assist our students with the work during COVID-19, many of the tasks will be available on video demo and students will attend Virtual classroom lessons, have their course and all resources available on Brightspace.

ASSESSMENT IN YEAR 13

Assessment will be based on the student's ability to understand the assessment objectives and apply themselves to the course aims.

Students will have written and verbal feedback from their teachers. Teachers will keep a record diary of conversations in the classroom. Assessment sheets will be placed at the back of sketchbooks recording their grades, Base Target and Aspirational target. Monitoring and assessment will also take place via the online platform Brightspace portfolio. There will be a mock exam at the beginning of the Spring term allowing students to have a genuine exam experience before the final externally set assignment (The final exam-May of year13) and to dedicate this time to a sustained piece concluding their personal investigation coursework.

AUTUMN TERM

TOPIC 2

Completion of all coursework: the Personal Project and Personal study essay.

Preparing for the Year 13 Mock Exam and Final exam. Students will work towards and complete their mock exam which will be the conclusion to their coursework. A mini personal study essay will be taught so students can learn to write in an analytical way showing off their own voiced opinions and found knowledge. Students are shown how to develop their work for in order to meet the criteria for a mock exam submission. This is all engineered to prepare students for the Year 13 Mock Exam and the Year 13 Externally set Assignment – the final Exam. In all of these cases, the preparatory work is worth 75% of the marks and without this, students are likely to fail. Students are assessed on their ability to work independently, with the preparatory work being set as homework.

HOMEWORK IN YEAR 13

Homework assignments are part of the overall requirement for student's coursework and much of it will be individual. Students are expected to demonstrate initiative, independence and ownership over their work. Homework plays a very important role in helping students to develop as young artists and designers. Working independently, away from the classroom environment allows students to develop their skills and ideas in a personal way and build an individual approach to their work. Students will be set homework that is relevant to lesson and project content. Research and design work will support classwork.

Homework contributes hugely to the coursework portfolio and therefore it must be emphasised that students who do not produce independent work rarely succeed on the course. Homework will also be used to assess development towards the base target. The coloured spot system, grading in Brightspace gradebooks, alongside written and verbal feedback will also contribute to effective, transparent communication between student, parent and teacher.

SPRING TERM

TOPIC 3

Development of the Personal Project

Students continue to develop their Personal Project, reflecting on the development of their Year 12 Mock Exam and integrating this work into the main portfolio. Students reflect on their progress against the Assessment Objectives and gain a greater understanding of the assessment process and how marks are awarded, through self-assessment, peer-assessment and group crits. Students learn the value of seeing artworks first-hand and subject to measures being safe by this point in the term, students will be taken on a school trip to visit a Contemporary Art Gallery for this purpose. Students will produce work that is linked with their personal theme and artwork that they have seen first-hand in a gallery setting. Students will be introduced to the personal study essay which forms 12% of the overall grade for their coursework. Students will continue with their line of enquiry both in their practical work and their writing.

ENRICHMENT THEMES IN YEAR 13

SMSC and British Values: Please see The Art Department's SMSC Document. Students study artists from all aspects of the Art industry to influence their work. Many of the artists explored are commercial artists, Photographers and Fine Artists. Students learn to develop their work in similar ways to the practice of Photographers at Further Education and within the Arts industries. Students are often encouraged to explore moral values through the topics selected as their Personal Projects in order to comment on social, cultural and political events. Cultural Capital: Students study a wide range of artists and artefacts from a variety of backgrounds and cultures so that they can be encouraged to emphasise and relate to others, demonstrating that they can also achieve their aspirational dreams irrespective of their own background.

Where Next?

In Year 13, many students continue with their studies within the Arts subjects, with many students continuing on to study a Foundation Course in Art and Design before progressing on to a specialist degree course within the Arts. West Bridgford School has strong and positive connections with local Art Foundation Courses and many of our students continue their studies at these locations. Students who choose not to pursue the Arts after A-level often maintain that studying an Arts subject has helped them with their creative problem-solving and analytical skills, allowing them to think and explore more diversely as a result. Many of our Art students have progressed on to study careers in Architecture, Fashion, Film / Animation, Graphic Design, Media as well as working as freelance artists.