



Christ's College Guildford

Principal: Sarah Hatch. BA (Hons), QTS, PGC, NPQH
www.christscollege.surrey.sch.uk



Subject: Photography

Year Group: Year 10 & 11 GCSE

Curriculum Intent:

During the GCSE Photography course, our aim is to provide students with the skills and knowledge to use a camera and digital media and develop individual outcomes, either through a series of teacher lead tasks, or through their own independent exploration.

Our students are given the tools and techniques to develop and experiment with ideas and equipment and become more independent in their creativity.

Students are introduced to the DSLR cameras, that are available to use in school, and are taught how to use aperture and shutter speed settings, to control the exposure and produce creative outcomes.

The three coursework projects cover studio photography, location photography and portraiture and students are introduced to a range of photographers' work, linking to the project themes. They are encouraged not only to be inspired by the outcomes, but also to try and understand photographers' intentions, link intentions to historical, contemporary, social, cultural, and issue-based contexts, and create personal responses inspired by their research.

College Values:

The College's core values permeate through the design and delivery of all photography lessons. Students have opportunities to work collaboratively in small groups and are encouraged to share ideas, support each other, and co-operate.

Students are encouraged to express their own opinions on creative work and topics relating to our projects. They are taught to show respect for each other's ideas and viewpoints, even if they differ from their own.

We share and celebrate a love of creativity as much as possible, both inside the classroom and around the school. Service and stewardship are part of our everyday lessons, where we help each other by doing good turns when sharing equipment and taking care of our resources, workspace, and each other.

Knowledge and Skills:

Through the GCSE Photography course, students are taught to use the basic functions on the DSLR camera in relation to aperture, shutter speed and ISO. They are taught to manipulate and develop their photos using digital programs such as Photoshop and explore physical methods to create personal outcomes.

The contextual studies that we teach are designed to broaden the students' knowledge and understanding of a range of historical and contemporary work and cover a range of Photographic styles.



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Assessment:

Students are entered for Photography GCSE with the AQA exam board. The course has two components; component 1 (Coursework Portfolio) which makes up 60% of the final grade and Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment) which is the remaining 40% and starts as a guided project and ends in a 10-hour exam.

Whilst working on Component 1, formed of three projects, students are continually monitored and assessed on the standard of the work they are completing. At the end of each project, students are given a mark, broken down into the four assessed areas (Develop, Refine, Record, Present). These three projects can then be improved upon and are remarked as one portfolio that contributes to 60% of the final grade.

Component 2 is published by the exam board in the January of Year 11 and makes up 40% of their final grade. Students choose one of the themes for their project and draw on all their skills, knowledge and understanding, to help them research and develop ideas. They research and analyse artists' and photographers' work, record their ideas in visual and written format, explore and refine their ideas and techniques and present a personal response.

The final piece for this project is produced in a 10-hour exam, competed in exam conditions over two days. We try to prepare students for their final 10-hour exam, by providing 5-hours mock exams, in Year 10 and Year 11 which mimic the exam environments.

Both components are marked and moderated internally and externally.

Homework:

Homework tasks cover a range of activities that contribute to the coursework and exam projects. They are usually set every fortnight and take the form of internet research, watching online tutorial, or may require students to take a series of photographs in a specific location. There is an expectation that students undertake additional independent work on their coursework if required, so they remain up to date with the work pace.

Cultural Capital:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/art/>

Course advice and tips from the BBC

<http://www.pinterest.com/>

A visual discovery tool that you can use to collect ideas for the different projects and themes (great for finding artists and other examples of GCSE artwork)

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/wpy/gallery?tags=ed.3>

Images from the Wildlife photographers' competition. This is an annual competition, which also has a category for young photographers.

<https://phlearn.com/free-tutorials/>





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Lots of tutorials and guides on Photoshop, Lightroom, and Photography.

<http://photofocus.com/>

Photofocus is a helpful and educational resource for the aspiring and professional photographer. This is a "blogazine" style website that has content from accomplished photographers and artists.

<http://expertphotography.com/>

Lots of tutorials and guides on how to achieve a wide range of photographic techniques.

<https://www.flickr.com>

A great source for inspiration, most photos will also have the exposure information about the photo.

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/>

More tutorials, hints and tips and articles about all things photographic

Places to Visit

Tate Britain, London

Tate Modern, London

The Photographers' Gallery, London

The Victoria & Albert Photography Centre, London

Michael Hoppen Gallery, London

Hamilton's Gallery, London

Leica Photography Gallery, London

Atlas Gallery, London

The Lightbox, Woking

