

Transition Programme for A Level Photography

Photography at HGSS is under exam board Edexcel. The course is 60% coursework, this will take the form of a 'Personal Project' starting as a workshop style skill-based learning experience, before moving on to varying idea sections and a development of ideas, through to outcome/s. Alongside this, students have to complete a standalone essay linking to their Personal Project (an essay of continuous prose between 1000 and 3000 words and is worth 12% of the total CW mark).

The exam aspect of the course (the ESA) is worth 40% and is completely governed by the exam board. This usually begins in the February of Year 13 and ends in the April.

In order to prepare for the above, students could complete research into a number of photographic skills. This research does not have to be extensive however, as the workshops beginning in September will cover these aspects in more detail and students will evidence their understanding in depth inside their sketchbooks.

I want you to create a PowerPoint presentation (size A3 not widescreen with plain white backgrounds). I would like you to create a thought-web of at least three slides/pages on your chosen personal project. If you are unsure what topic you would like to pursue, create one slide each on three different options and we can decide in September. You need to keep a Word document of all weblinks you use to include information or imagery – this will be the beginnings of your bibliography.

You also need to create a two-slide presentation on Dark Room techniques as this is something you need to be aware of but is not covered in the course as we currently have no darkroom.

You also need to consider the following (especially those new to Photography), as this is what will be covered in the first term of the course.

- The Exposure Triangle - what is exposure? what does it look like? What photographic elements does the Exposure Triangle consist of? What is a histogram? Why are they useful to photographers?
- Composition - what is it, why does it aid photography and how many ways can it be explored? Research should be visual and written.
- Focus - what does this mean? How is it controlled? What impact does focus have with regards to photography? What about macro photography? What is a bokeh?
- Shutter Speed - what does this refer to? What do different shutter speeds **look** like? Why are they needed?
- Light - without light there can be no photography. What are the rules of light? What is the difference between soft and hard light? What equipment aids lighting techniques and how?
- Consider the power of colour vs black and white photography