



ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

PREPARING FOR A-LEVEL

PHOTOGRAPHY

Explore and have fun experimenting with viewpoint, composition and creative ways of seeing. Your task is to respond creatively to the environment you are in. Your first component of study in Photography at A level will be building an understanding of composition. With this in mind you are to gather imagery and research that could be used as part of your initial presentation and responses to the tasks set in September.

You are to explore composition through relevant research and practical investigation - (photoshoots). You will require a Digital SLR camera for the A-Level photography course so it might be a good idea to purchase a camera so that you can start getting used to it at this stage. Otherwise you will have to use an alternative for now (e.g. a mobile phone, or tablet).

Presentation and storage of work

It is important for you to keep a clear record of your work. I would suggest saving your 'shoots' and research pages onto your One Drive account. Create a new folder PHOTOGRAPHY. Clearly label each folder (i.e. "Shoot 1 – Close ups of nature").

Week One: Close up texture and pattern

1. Research and investigate photographers who have explored close up photography and produce a visual brainstorm in the form of a mini PowerPoint.
2. Photoshoots – Explore close ups and patterns in nature, in your home, of a car etc.

Week Two: Viewpoint and unusual vantage points

1. Research and investigate photographers who have explored unusual angles and viewpoints of the world in the form of a mini PowerPoint.
2. Photoshoots – Explore viewpoint and vantage point practically – be creative with position in which you are taking the photograph.

Weeks Three: Portraits

1. Research and investigate creative portrait photography. Produce a visual brainstorm PowerPoint.
2. Photoshoots – take photos of a person whilst using the skills developed in previous weeks (close ups, selective cropping, unusual angles). Convert some of your images to black and white. Consider using the portrait mode on your camera/phone in order to blur the background. Explore the contrast or relationship between the person and environment.

Week Four: Light

1. Research and investigate various types of available light that photographers use to create dynamic and powerful imagery. Produce a visual brainstorm PowerPoint.
2. Photoshoots – Explore a variety of lighting conditions when taking photographs (natural day light – distortions of light, shadows, reflections etc. Explore night lighting – torch light, outside lamps etc).
3. Responding to an environment – Produce a series of photographs that respond to a particular environment in order to tell a story (narrative) and that use the skills you have considered above. Try to title your final selection (no more than 6 images).

EXAMPLES OF POSSIBLE THEMES

- Elements of colour within an environment
- Nature vs Mankind
- Abandoned
- Structures
- Seascape