



September 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 11 - GCSE Photography main coursework project

Year 11 Photography students are now working on their **main coursework project**. This project will represent the majority of their **coursework portfolio**, which accounts for 60% of their final GCSE grade. They may also include a selection of work from their Year 10 project on **Buildings**.

Photography students are all working with the theme of **Natural Form** or their own choice linked to previous themes. The project is teacher led at the beginning with Photoshop skills and instructions on PowerPoint presentations, which is how they show their work on this course. They then develop their ideas in a more personal way, leading into their outcomes. All work is saved onto their user areas in school. If students wish to borrow cameras from the department outside of lessons, please ensure you have completed the form emailed to you earlier this term.

Photography **projects** are the way students gain the marks for their coursework components and their Externally Set Assignment (ESA exam component) by covering four Assessment Objectives. For both, we give them 10 weeks of preparation time to prepare them for creating an outcome in 10 hours of supervised time under exam conditions but in an art room, so they have the facilities and materials to work with.

We will arrange for a whole day off timetable **towards the end of Term 2** to give students an opportunity to complete an outcome and get an idea of what the silent exam sessions will be like in **April 2027**. All work is marked together to produce their final grade. It is important, therefore, that the students understand how to create and present their preparation work and to plan and prepare for completing the project with a 'significant outcome'.

Class work and home learning is now being used to create **preparation work** that will help them decide on their final outcome. Using the Assessment Objectives, they will need to demonstrate the inspiration for their idea, how they develop and refine it, how they record their thoughts and observations, as well as plan for creating their final outcome in the supervised session.

All students, including Photography, must include writing and drawing in their projects, appropriate to the purpose. This can be annotations and diagrams. More information is available on Frog. Teachers will provide regular feedback and advice before the 10-hour sessions begin. All students are expected to work at least one hour outside of lessons in order to use their time effectively and respond to our advice.

The Art department is open during lunchtimes, and we offer regular after school sessions for students to use our facilities and equipment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 3.10pm – 4.45pm. The late bus runs Monday to Thursday at **4.30pm** for students to use if needed. We hope that all students take this opportunity to attend the afterschool session each week, however if they are not managing home learning deadlines, they will be asked to regularly attend these sessions.

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Students will have completed their main project by the end of December 2026 and will not have a chance to add to this once it has been marked and stored securely in the department. At the start of January 2027, they will be given the Externally Set Assignment (ESA), which accounts for 40% of their final GCSE grade. We hold the 10 hour supervised sessions after the Easter break which is where they work under exam conditions in the art rooms to complete their projects. They will use the last few weeks of lesson time in Term 5 to revise for other exams. █

If you require any further information, please contact your child's Photography teacher. █

Yours sincerely

J Lewis
Curriculum Leader of Art and Design Technology