



12th January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: AQA GCSE Art & Design: Photography Component 2 – Exam Project

We are pleased to provide you with important details regarding your child's GCSE photography, component 2, exam project. This project is an opportunity for students to showcase their creative and technical abilities, and it accounts for **40% of their overall GCSE grade**.

Project Overview

Students will select one of the following themes to base their project on:

1. Nature
2. Reflections
3. Time
4. Costumes
5. Interiors
6. Isolation
7. Movement

They will complete preparatory work over an **11-week period**, exploring their chosen theme through research, experimentation, and development. This will culminate in a **10-hour exam**, during which they will create their final piece.

Assessment Objectives

The project will be marked using four Assessment Objectives, each worth **25% of the total**:

1. **AO1 – Develop:** Investigate the chosen theme and develop ideas through research and analysis.
2. **AO2 – Experiment:** Explore and refine ideas by experimenting with materials, techniques, and processes.
3. **AO3 – Record:** Record observations and ideas through drawing, photography, writing and other media.
4. **AO4 – Present:** Create a final piece that is personal, original, and reflects the development of ideas.

Materials and Experimentation

Students will experiment with a variety of materials to meet the assessment objectives. These may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and textiles as well as photography. Experimentation is vital for creative development and achieving higher grades.

Students will require a **portfolio** or a **new blank A3 sketchbook** to complete their coursework and preparatory work for this component. I have portfolios available, however, if your child wishes to work from a sketchbook then this will need to be purchased by yourselves. They can be purchased from a variety of retailers such as The Range, Hobbycraft, Amazon, Art Gecko or other stationery suppliers.

Key Deadlines

- **Theme Selection:** First week of preparation
- **Initial Research and Experiments:** Weeks 1–4
- **Development of Ideas:** Weeks 5–8
- **Final Exam:** 10 hours to complete the final artwork
- **Final Submission:** All work (sketchbooks, preparatory pieces, and final piece) must be submitted by the end of the exam period

Resources and Absences

All resources will be uploaded to students on **Satchel:One**. This includes lesson slides, task instructions, support materials such as writing frames, and additional guidance resources.

If your child is absent, they are expected to stay up to date by accessing their **Satchel:One** account and completing all work as instructed.

Additional Support

To help your child succeed, we offer **extra Photography support sessions every Tuesday and Thursday after school, from 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM**. These sessions are open to all students, whether they need additional guidance, or wish to challenge themselves further to achieve the highest grades.

I also ask that where possible you can support your child in visiting different locations for them to complete photoshoots. This is a requirement of the course and cannot always be accessed in school due to the exam themes provided. If you need any guidance with this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Tips for Success

- Stay organised: Keep all work clearly documented in sketchbooks
- Experiment regularly: Explore a range of techniques and materials
- Seek feedback: Encourage your child to ask for advice to refine their work
- Reflect and develop: Ensure each piece shows progression and links to the final outcome
- Attend all after-school sessions to ensure they are fully equipped to succeed

We encourage you to discuss your child's progress and chosen theme at home to support motivation and focus. If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,



Miss Carolyn Richards
Head of Photography

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