Frequently Asked Questions – A-Level Photography

**Do I have to have studied Art at GCSE to study A-Level Photography?**

*No! We teach everyone from the same level from the beginning. Having students that have studied a range of different subjects both in and outside of art makes classroom discussions rich and interesting.*

**What equipment will I need for the course?**

*We ask that all students buy a 35mm film camera that has adjustable shutter speed, aperture, ISO and a manual focus.*

**Where can I get a 35mm camera?**

*There are a number of shops and websites that sell 35mm film cameras, wherever you go please always check with the seller that the camera is working, this includes the light meter.*

**Does this mean students will not get an opportunity to study digital photography?**

*Students start the course using black and white film and learning darkroom techniques. We are incredibly lucky to have a large and well looked after darkroom. This facility gives us the chance to teach students about the history of photography and give them a unique experience that a large number of other colleges cannot offer.*

*We do recognise the importance of digital photography too and introduce digital, Adobe Photoshop and other elements of the Adobe suite throughout the year. We feel it is important that students are experiencing all that photography can offer them from historical elements to new equipment and software.*

**What if I enjoy the darkroom and photographing on film?**

*We will always ask you to explore and experiment with different mediums in your projects so you can get an understanding of which aspect of photography best communicates your ideas. But if you enjoy it and are producing good work then we are there to support you.*

**Is photography an expensive subject?**

*Photography does have costs. One text book will not be the only thing you need over the two years. We do ask that you buy film, photographic paper and other supplies, but we do have a shop at college which sells everything at cost price.*

*The more careful you are when out taking photographs or printing, whether that be darkroom or digital, the less money you will lose through small mistakes.*

**Do you go on any trips?**

*Yes, this year we went to Belfast, last year Berlin. This year we are going to Paris. We do not currently know the cost for this trip but we look to make it as affordable as possible.*

**What will we study as part of the course?**

*You will study a range of different things when studying with us. Darkroom photography, photography skills and techniques, digital photography. We will discuss analysing and evaluating photographs, theory and writing about photography, experimenting with and combining photography with other creative areas. If you are interested in it, we want to know so we can recommend photographers, research, techniques and processes that will help you be as creative as possible.*