



# Visual Arts Department

## Art and Photography

### **The Visual Arts Department**

The Visual Arts Department at The Shrewsbury Academy consists of several members of staff. Mr Tomkinson (Head of Department), Miss Atkin and Ms Miller. The Department prides itself on participation, success of pupils especially in the GCSE classes performing 3 times above the national average.

### **What will I learn?**

Art at KS3 begins with teaching pupils the formal elements which create the foundation for everything else; this will then allow pupils to explore a wide range of media and materials that will influence different outcomes. Pupils will have the experience of working both 2 dimensionally and well as three dimensionally using a wide range of techniques like, painting, printmaking, ceramics etc.

GCSE Art is a practical coursework based course with some written aspects.

Pupils will be expected to work in a variety of ways using a range of media to produce two coursework units.

Pupils will be expected to develop ideas through investigations and research of artists, explore and refine their own ideas through experimentation, materials, techniques and processes. They will be expected to record ideas, images, observations using a variety of media and writing. Presentation of your work is crucial and must always be meaningful. Pupils will be expected to create a final outcome that has been considered.

Pupils will then have a practical exam which consists of creating a mini coursework unit over 12 weeks. Pupils will then be expected to create a final piece during a 10 hour controlled session.

GCSE Photography is an extremely challenging course that has a large written element.

It is essential that pupils can articulate themselves when analysing the work of others as well as describing process and techniques they are using.

This course is mainly a digital photography course, learning how to use a SLR camera, how to take low and high key lighting in a studio setting, taking HDR images. Pupils will then learn how to use Photoshop to alter and manipulate images.

Pupils will be expected to work in a variety of ways using a range of media to produce three coursework units.

Pupils will be expected to develop ideas through investigations and research of photographers, explore and refine their own ideas through experimentation, techniques and processes. They will be expected to record ideas, images, observations using a range of photography styles and writing. Presentation of your work is crucial and must always be meaningful. Pupils will be expected to create a series of final outcome that has been considered.

Pupils will then have a practical exam which consists of creating a mini coursework unit over 12 weeks. Pupils will then be expected to create a series of final pieces during a 10 hour controlled session.

### **How much Art do I get?**

In Key Stage 3, students have one 60 minute lessons per week. This gives them a foundation for those that wish to go future with this course. At key stage 4 pupils will then have 5 hours a fortnight to build up their portfolios whilst still develop new skill and techniques. Pupils enthusiasm and excitement for this subject is evident in the individual visual responses.

### **How much Photography do I get?**

At key stage 4 pupils will then have 5 hours a fortnight, this is a very exciting and highly motivated subject with high expectations from day one.

### **Details of coursework components GCSE Art:**

Pupils will be expected to construct 2 coursework units.

Unit one will be guided by staff and will help pupils to understand the assessment criteria while supporting pupils to become more independent in their learning.

Unit 2, pupils will be asked to select a theme provided by staff to form a starting point for a personal unit. This unit is designed to allow pupils more flexibility and freedom. This will encourage all ability ranges to excel, hopefully exceeding their target levels. It is also essential to prepare pupils for their exam unit where pupils will be expected to choose a theme and be independent.

### **Details of coursework components GCSE Photography:**

Pupils will be expected to construct 4/5 coursework units.

Unit one, two and three will be guided by staff and will help pupils to understand the assessment criteria while supporting pupils to become more independent in their learning.

Unit 4 and 5, pupils will be asked to select a theme provided by staff to form a starting point for a personal unit. This unit is designed to allow pupils more flexibility and freedom helping them focus on specific photography or editing techniques. This will encourage all ability ranges to excel, exceeding their target levels. It is also essential to prepare pupils for their exam unit where pupils will be expected to choose a theme and be independent.

### **What equipment will I be expected to get at KS3?**

Most materials are provided at KS3 however it is essential that pupils provide the basic equipment required for most lessons; this would include pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener, ruler and pencil crayons.

There maybe a small cost for specific topics to assist with the expense of costly materials like clay.

### **What equipment will I be expected to get for GCSE?**

In Art all students are expected to purchase a basic art set which includes a portfolio and essential materials like; a range of drawing pencils, wax pastels, paint brushes etc. All these items are available to purchase at the start of the course or from a place of your choosing. In Photography all students are expected to purchase a simple set of items that are in expensive which includes a SD card and memory stick. Pupils will not be expected to go out and purchase a DSLR camera.

### **What opportunities are there for Out of School Learning?**

The school has a wide selection of extra-curricular clubs which are run during and after school. These are open to KS3 and KS4 students of all abilities and include sessions to develop new skills separate of class work, opportunities to catch up or continue with work or you might want to get involved in sets and productions.

### **Any special requirements:**

Commitment, hardworking and passionate