

**Subject:** A-Level Photography**Exam Board:** AQA

Welcome to A-level Photography. We are delighted that you are considering A-level Photography as an option in Year 12. To demonstrate your commitment to the course and to prepare you for September, you must complete five tasks to the best of your ability. The bridging tasks are compulsory and must be completed prior to your first lesson in order to make the best possible progress

### Learning Objectives / Skills and Attributes:

- Learn about professional means and techniques using cameras, software and equipment to render ideas into effective outcomes applicable to photography and other visual Arts fields/ forms.
- Learn digital means of developing, processing and formatting images to the highest level of quality possible, using Photoshop and other digital software packages.
- Learn to devise and develop personal units of work in response to chosen themes that show extended, sophisticated investigation, experimentation and realisation of ideas in varying formats and styles.
- Learn about ways to process images to best suit concepts and aesthetic ideas in ways that are meaningful and relevant to intentions.
- Learn about effective means to develop your creative response and artistic practise, to ensure a strong and sophisticated creative and conceptual repertoire of skills can be utilised in reaction to creative briefs.
- Create a strong portfolio of work that showcases skills, ideas and potential in the creative arts, which could be applied to a wide range of prospective careers
- Learn about ways to evaluate and analyse critical and contextual connections alongside your own work through portfolios, written analysis and rationale of ideas

### Contacts for Support:

**Mr. Robinson-White-** [robinson-white@tahs.org.uk](mailto:robinson-white@tahs.org.uk)

All resources, exemplar material & guides for your A-Level course can be found in the Y12 Photography 2022-2024 team- please email if you need access

## What is Photography?

Photography is a broad ranging subject based in the visual Arts, using traditional and contemporary means of developing and experimenting with work and ideas towards the creation of a physical and digital portfolio of work in preparation for future career and course intentions/ progression.

We support students to develop and showcase their A-Level Photography with throughout a series of foundation/ prescriptive skills initially followed by a lengthy personal response- resulting in the final, comprehensive Portfolio.

We strive to develop strong working relationships with our students and thrive on working together towards a personalised, unique portfolio that will serve as a powerful tool in the next stage of each student's professional life and career. It is our passion to develop portfolios with students that are suited to the next stage of each student's careers to ensure maximum chance of success in the future pursuits.



### Careers you can consider with this (subject):

Photography will be an invaluable asset to any career strand in any Creative Art, Design or Graphic based discipline alongside functioning as an invaluable tool at interview in any subject taken further at college or university. This is due to the concise and holistic presentation of the portfolio which communicates skills, organisation and ability in one comprehensive document. Further to this, it would also be a useful resource for accessing careers in a wealth of other areas such as Advertising, Journalism, Curating, Education and Media. For a full range of careers available, enhanced by Photography A- Level please access the careers information in the Bridging Resources in the TEAMS channel.

### Homework Tasks to be completed:

We expect you to spend at least 10 hours completing the 4 tasks outlined in this pack (that will be explained in the bridging lessons and TEAMS resources). The tasks have been designed to help you develop some of the key skills you will need for A-Level Photography- and test your creative ability and response to themes, words and concepts using Photography. The 4 tasks are detailed in brief below and are illustrated in further detail in the rest of the pack.

**All tasks are explained in the TEAM channel- please email if you need any more support**

**Task 1: VISUAL ELEMENTS:** Photograph at least 35 shots that show a creative response to the visual elements of line, tone, texture, shape, space, form, pattern, or colour. You can focus on one element in more detail if you wish.  
(Please see [Page 5](#) in this document to see a guide and examples)

**Task 2: ALPHABET:** Photograph at least 35 shots that creatively represent a letter of the alphabet. (Please see [Page 6](#) in this document to see a guide and examples)

**Task 3: PORTRAIT:** Photograph at least 35 portrait shots showing a range of viewpoints, ideas and inspirations relating to portraits (Please see [Page 7](#) in this document to see a guide and examples)

**Task 4: ANALYSIS:** Create a single PowerPoint / OpenDocument slide of one photographer's work you are passionate about (Please see [Page 8](#) in this document to see a guide and examples)



### **Overview of 2 COMBINED Bridging lessons:**

All lessons and bridging resources can be found in the TEAM in PDFs if extra detail is required :

#### **TUESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> June P2-3 (10:40- 1:10)**

- OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE/** looking at examples of personal Units from current y13 work
- SET SUMMER BRIDGING WORK tasks / SHOW TEAMS CHANNEL**
- COMPLETE 1<sup>ST</sup> STUDIO set using hidden messages and artist inspiration**

### **OVERVIEW OF PHOTOGRAPHY A-LEVEL**

You will complete 2 components (units) of A-Level study. **Component 1** is a Coursework Portfolio of Personal Investigation unit that makes up 60% of A-level grade and will occupy all of Year 12 and Year 13 (leading up to February). **Component 2** is a Controlled Assessment (Exam unit) that will make up the remaining 40% of your entire grade (from February 2024 onwards)

### **TWO YEAR SUMMARY:**

#### **September to December 2023: Directed Coursework Unit**

Develop key skills in Photography and Photoshop application to ensure success in all areas of photography. You will undertake various photographic tasks set in lesson, which will be used in combination with your bridging photographs to create a range of outcomes and developments using traditional and digital techniques.

The Directed element of the course will form main three areas of investigation: Tangent, Layers and Portraits. Each theme will have its own starting point, focus for research and means of development to evidence and ensure breadth in your portfolio and skills.

#### **January –April 2024: Initiate Self –Directed Unit**

You will determine a personal theme to investigate which will be negotiated and planned with your Teacher. You will experiment and develop ideas making sure all work is presented and evidenced in accordance with the Photography format and Assessment Objectives.

**May – August 2024:****Refine Self –Directed Unit**

At this point, you will evaluate your progress and target ways to refine, re-direct and re-focus your personal investigation to ensure your work meets the demands of Advanced Level study. You will determine an appropriate, personal essay title to illustrate your work / ideas.

**Sept 2024- Jan 2025:****Resolve Self Directed Unit**

In this final stage of your coursework portfolio you will finalise your ideas and essay and create the most refined outcomes and developments for your personal work and ideas. All work must be completed and presented in workbooks along with relevant final pieces

**Jan-May 2025****Exam: Controlled Assessment**

Students will respond to an externally set exam question from AQA that they will investigate and resolve into a successful and meaningful series of outcomes. At this stage in the course, you will have a comprehensive repertoire of skills that you apply to your response and investigation of your chosen exam question.

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***BRIDGING TASKS 1-4 are detailed in the pages below***





### TASK 1: VISUAL ELEMENTS:

Photograph at least 35 shots that show a creative response to the visual elements of **LINE, TONE, TEXTURE, SHAPE, SPACE, FORM, PATTERN OR COLOUR**. You can focus on one element in more detail if you wish- or Photograph a range of different visual elements.

You must look for a range of interesting angles, viewpoints and do your best to be as creative as possible. You must be able to convincingly explain what visual element is represented in each of your photographs.



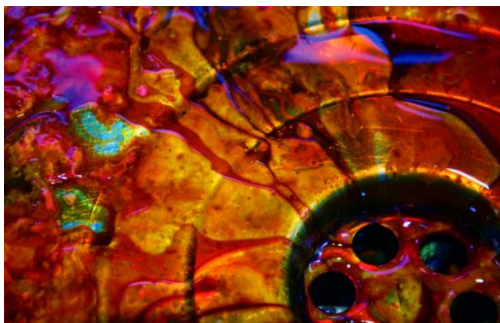
LINE



COLOUR



TONE/ LINE



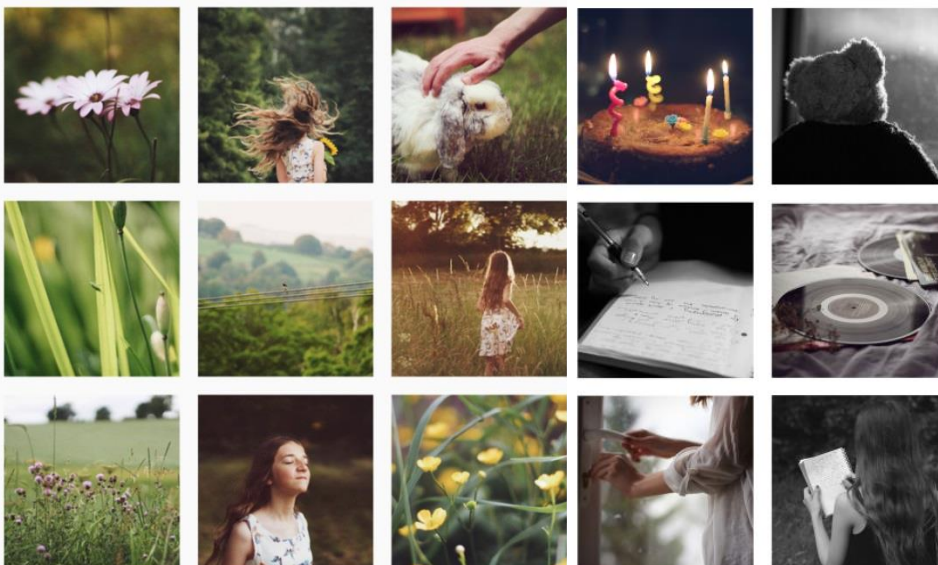
COLOUR



LINE



SHAPE



We will experiment with a variety of processes and techniques

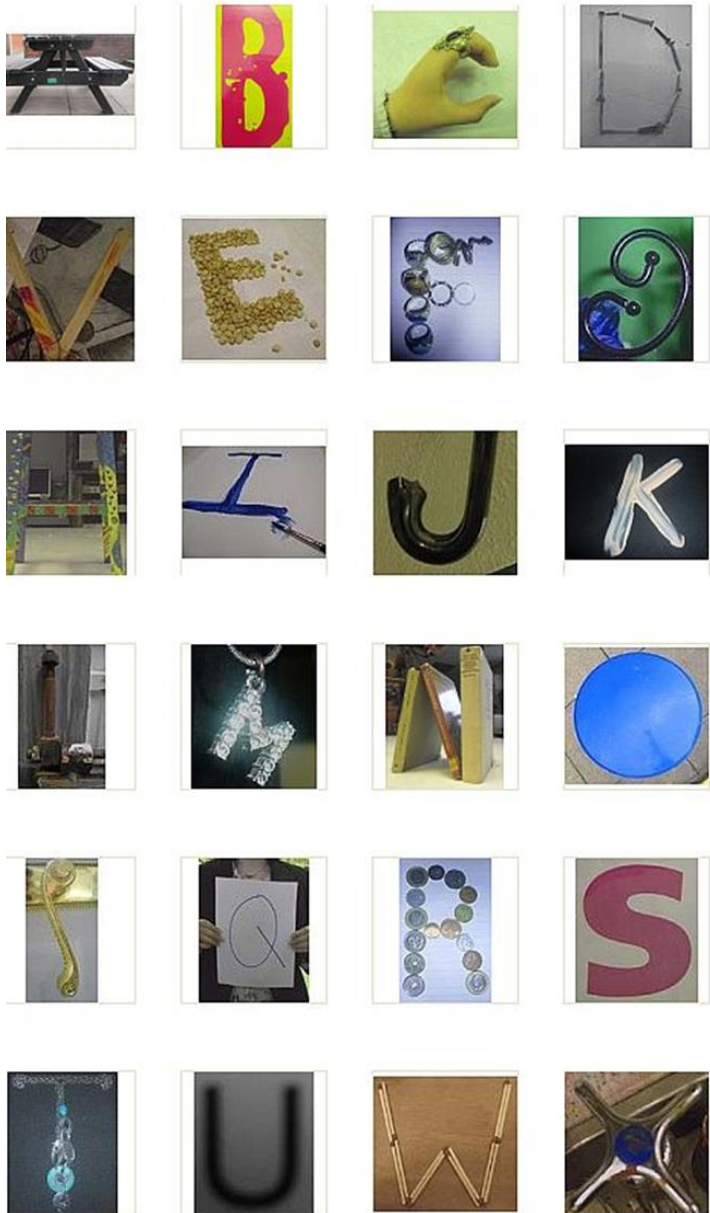




**TASK 2: ALPHABET**

Photograph at least 35 shots that creatively represent a letter of the alphabet using photography.

This is a task intended to test your creativity and flare for representational imagery- you will need to think carefully about how you will record each letter of the alphabet alongside being to spontaneously photograph opportunities to record letter-forms in your environment / location. It will be useful to look at the work of David Airey and find other Photographers and Artists who use letter forms and typography in their work.





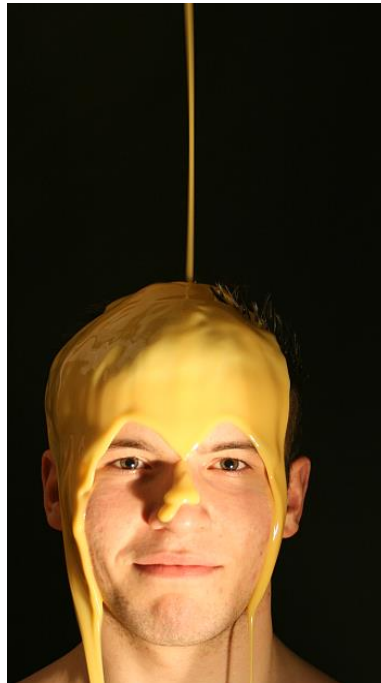
## Work 2023

### TASK 3: PORTRAIT

Photograph at least 35 portrait shots showing a range of interesting viewpoints, ideas and inspirations

Do your best to think creatively about how you could reference different Visual Elements (Line, tone, shape, space, form, colour, texture and pattern (there should be at least 24 images) in your approach to photographing portraits to enrich the quality of your shots and challenge yourself.

It is advised that you look at a range of examples and Photographer's work to inspire you. Examples from previous students can be seen below- along with a small selection of photographers to get you started.



STEVEN MEISEL



JORGE MIGUEL



BLOSSOM BERKOFKY





### TASK 4: ANALYSIS

Create a single (A4) PowerPoint / OpenDocument slide of one Artist or Photographer's work you are passionate about and may like to work in the style of. There is no right or wrong artists to pick- this is totally personal.

This task is intended to gauge your interests and test your basic analytical ability to research and understand other Artists and Photographers. You will be expected to verbally explain your interests alongside visually presenting your ideas.

You may wish to go one step further and photograph a set of images inspired by your chosen Photographer. This will show your understanding and willingness to make a good start to your A-level

#### Things to include:

*Why you like the artist/ Photographer..?*

*How / why do they make work...?*

*How could you involve their ideas in your own photographic investigation...?*

*What could be the difficulties of working in the artist/ photographer's style...?*

#### Example of Analysis / Research Slide:



### Aaron Zwaal

This image is featured in my artist research of Aaron Zwaal, I find the image very effective due to an interesting contrast between focused and unfocused areas in the image. The chain and feet of the rider are two very difficult areas to capture with them being the areas that move the most frequently, complimenting this the effective lack of focus provides a minor amount of distortion to the image- insinuating the viewers attention to the focal area.

Here is a strong example of an effective sequential development within action sports photography. I feel the use of sequential images is essential to display the movement produced by the rider, also sequential shots allow you to subconsciously provide emphasis to the location and setting of the images without being a dominating factor as the primary focus is still present.

I find one problem with sequential photography is creating images that are too crowded due to the person in focus moving an insufficient distance producing overlapping layers, this creates an aesthetically displeasing image due to having a confusing overlapping focus.

