

Welcome to A Level Photography

Welcome to the A Level Photography course, which will begin in September. Enclosed here is some equipment advice, potential expenses and introductory work to be completed over the summer.

Equipment

We would recommend for students to begin the course with their own film-based, manual SLR camera. These can generally be found very cheaply in second hand shops, car boot sales, ebay etc. The photography department does have a number of these cameras available to borrow (equipment loan details enclosed on a separate sheet), but cannot guarantee that they will always be available.

Some students may already own their own digital SLR (DSLR) cameras. If you are able to afford one of these, then we would recommend the Canon EOS 1100D or similar. This is one of the best value starter Digital SLRs available at the moment, but may well be beyond the budget of many families. The college has some DSLR cameras which may be borrowed from the department, but it will not be necessary to borrow DSLR cameras for the first part of the Autumn term, owing to the fact that A Level students begin the course studying film based photography.

Introductory Summer Work

1) Write a short essay detailing the origins of photography (no more than 7 – 800 words), this should include information about:

the Camera Obscura, Thomas Wedgwood, Nicéphore Niépce, Henry Fox Talbot, Louis Daguerre (and the 'Daguerrotype').

You may also be interested in:

Felix Nadar, Julia Margaret Cameron, the advent of box cameras (such as the Kodak "Brownie").

This must be in your own words.

2) Keep a regular photographic "diary" of your daily life throughout the remainder of the summer - anything that interests you. These can be taken on any available camera, even your phone.

You should also watch the following short videos on Youtube, making notes, as these will form the basis of discussions at the start of the course:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCd9mW_bztfBXvMxoKIkZZog

The four "Sofa Sessions" feature conversations with contemporary photographers about their practice.

<https://youtu.be/bpawWn1nXJo>

A short piece about artist Philip Lorca DiCorsia's controversial series "Heads"

August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Students are welcome to borrow the following items of the college's photographic equipment, but only on the basis that if it is lost, damaged or broken, any costs will be reimbursed.

Please sign below if you are happy with this arrangement.

Below is a list of potential replacement costs:

- Manual SLR film camera @ £158.33
- Tripod @ 42.54
- Lowepro bags for SLR cameras @ £15
- Holga medium format film camera @ £30
- USB lead @ £3.99
- Canon 1100D digital SLR camera @299.99

I give permission for my son/daughter;

Name of student _____ Tutor group _____

to borrow college photography equipment on the basis that it is returned on time, and if lost or damaged, costs will be covered.

Signed -----Parent/Guardian

Date-----

Please return to your photography teacher first week in September