A-level Art and Design (Photography)

TRINITY SIXTH FORM ACADEMY

The Photography A-level course is a long-established course with a legacy of successful results at TSFA. This is a popular course taught over two years that encompasses a range of photographic techniques ranging from digital, using Adobe Photoshop, to experimental mixed media and installation outcomes. The independent nature of the course is designed to prepare students for the further study of creative subjects in higher education.

What is covered?

This is a practical A-level course that will build the skills needed to succeed in a range of creative career paths in the design world and beyond. This course offers you the opportunity to be creative, explore a wide range of essential techniques and enhance your imaginative and creative powers.

During the first year you will cover a range of introductory approaches:

- Basic introduction into how a camera works.
- Research into a range of artists, photographers, both contemporary and historical
- Consider the role of the image in contemporary society.
- Composition – how to compose an image in line with compositional rules.
- Studio skills – exploring how to use high key and low-key lighting equipment in a studio environment using the colleges collection of Nikon SLRs and lenses.
- Coursework portfolio - develop a range of images based on an urban landscape brief, a creative story telling portraiture brief and an advanced digital college workshop of Adobe Photoshop (software provided).
- A number of final outcomes will be printed and presented in a creative manner.
- Students are taught how to create their own sketchbooks and mixed media processes such as heat transfer printing and machine embroidery.

Throughout the second year you will build on the techniques and ideas developed during the first year to produce high-quality work including:

- A personal investigation including a written study on those who have inspired photographic work and an essay of up to 3,000 words.
- Controlled assignment to a theme set by the exam board.
- At the end of each year the students work towards a final year exhibition.

What does the course involve?

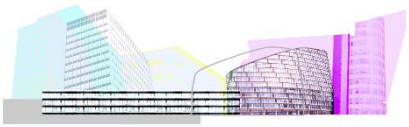
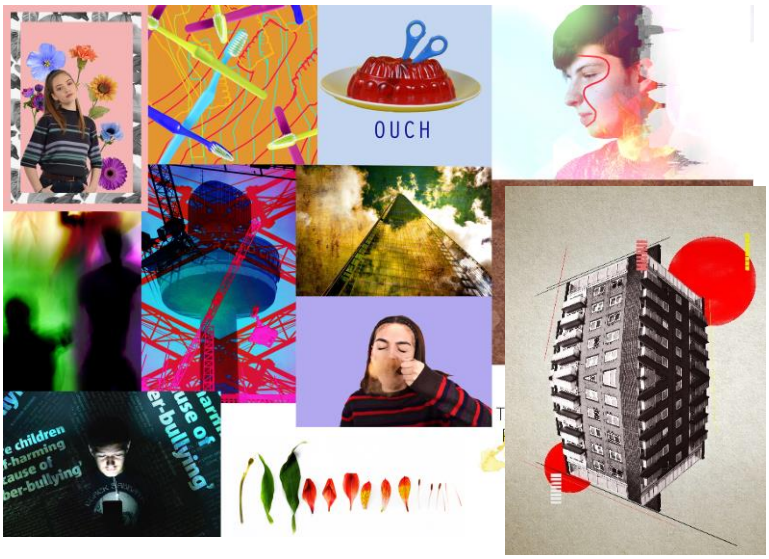
Techniques covered include a range of photographic processes and techniques such as digital collage, graphic design, special effects, animation and studio work centred on digital manipulation using Adobe Photoshop software. Students will be helped prepare for interviews at a range of higher education contexts, engaging with past alumni and external agencies to help guide their choices. Experiences include visiting lecturers from Huddersfield University and trips to Liverpool and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Find out more We encourage you to contact us with any questions, or alternatively why not follow the link to access Padlet, our bespoke training resource. The Padlet

Quick course facts

You should have a minimum of five GCSEs graded at level 4 or above, including English and Mathematics. It is desirable that you have achieved a grade 4 in an Art and Design subject or that you can show a portfolio of work at interview.

You will have the opportunity to take part in a number of trips where you can apply your skills and develop your control of aperture and shutter speed.

This is a highly practical A-level but you should note that you will still need to produce written work based on research.

A-level Photography can support include roles in the fine arts, graphic design, fashion or advertising.