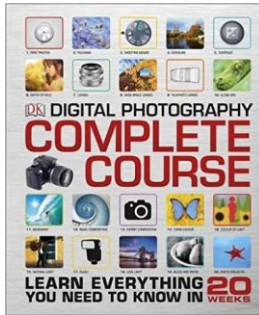**Photography**

A Level Preparation: Summer Project

Essential Reading

DK Digital Photography – Complete Course
Available on Amazon for £11.20

Do I need an expensive camera to begin A-Level Photography?

The answer is no!
We have a range of cameras here at school that you can use and get familiar with when you start the course. To begin with we are focusing on photographic composition – for this mobile phones are as good as an expensive DSLR camera – In fact the newest generation of mobile phones can produce images that are almost indistinguishable from all but the most expensive professional cameras and are a valuable tool for all photographers.

Many of our sixth formers do go on to purchase DSLR cameras as the course progresses as they can use them outside of school to develop their portfolio and photo experiments.

If you do want purchase a digital SLR camera there are no right or wrong options, though here in school we use Nikon cameras and it may be easier to navigate through purchasing the same brand.
- Prices can vary by model starting from the D3000 range (£250-£400)
- In school we favour the Nikon D5600 as it has Wifi capabilities making transferring photos much easier.
- Prices can be a lot more affordable buying a used camera from amazon marketplace/ ebay or other online resale sites.

Summer Learning Tasks:

Task 1:

Create a power point that could be used for a year 9 photography lesson that explains three of the following basic principles of photographic composition:
- Rule of Thirds
- Leading Lines
- Contrasting Colours
- Balancing Elements
- Symmetry and Patterns

Your Power point should contain
- An overview of each principle in your own words
- Examples of each principle from established photographers
- Examples of each principle from your own photographic experiments

Task 2:

Keep an online portfolio of your favourite photographs that you have taken – many of our A Level Photographers have a separate Instagram account for their Photography work separate to their personal account. Try to compile an album of at least 20 photographs.

Task 3:

A major part of your A-Level course will be how to elevate your photographic work in the presentation phase. Many Photographic Artists use mixed media in presenting their work. Research how artists have used photographs to create mixed media work. Find one that you particularly like and create a moodboard of their work and style.

Here are some suggestions to start you off
- Alana Dee Haynes
- Rankin
- Michael Macko
- Scott Hazzard
- John Clang
- Ed Fairburn
- Daniel Buetti
- Januz Miralles
- Arnulf Rainer
- Thomas Lamadieu

Finally………..

We will look at a variety of ways to edit your photos on the course. There are many applications that can be used on mobile devices as well as more advanced computer programs such as photoshop. One app that we use a lot on the course is called Snapseed. It is free to download on every major appstore and is compatible with both Android and Apple devices. We suggest you download it and start to familiarise yourself with it – we will look at some of the more advanced features in the early part of the course.