

The Photography Bridge

Some tasks to help you prepare for Photography A-level

Task	Title	Instructions
1	Camera and equipment	We want you to start to use a DSLR (Digital single lens reflex camera). Attached to these instructions is a letter to be sent home which is a list of the equipment you will need. Please note that you may be eligible for a bursary to help with the costs of this.
2	Surfaces	This is a set of photography tasks that you can do on any camera. See the challenge sheet for details
3	Pinterest	Follow our Pinterest Boards (https://www.pinterest.co.uk/qehsp/) and discover the world of art photography. Create your own Pinterest account and then create a board with some “surfaces” research – see the task sheet for details.
4	Start a powerpoint	Using powerpoint start a digital sketchbook – you can see some examples here: https://queenelizabethhigh-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/wpy_gehs_net/Ek-QSO8fK9JMIbeuGSFDTbEBCcyI23L6lg761_ZIriPLWw?e=tL3emh First make a moodboard using some of your images. Then make more pages to record some of your own photography that fits the theme 'Surfaces'
5	Book	There are many photography books available, most of these would be very useful. The one we would recommend is: Read This If You Want To Take Good Photographs. Author: Henry Carroll. ISBN: 978-1-78067-335-6. Review is here: https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18269594-read-this-if-you-want-to-take-great-photographs .
6	Formal elements	We would like you to investigate the formal elements linked to photography, creating moodboards in your powerpoint and planning three shoots, each linked to one of the formal elements
7	Days of summer	Take 46 photos to record your summer (at home or if we get away.....)

Dear Parent, Guardian

Re: Photography A level course 2020 -2021/2

We are writing because your son or daughter has opted to take A-level photography starting in September. The purpose of the letter is to explain our view of the best equipment to help our students succeed in this subject.

Students should have regular access to:

- 1) A reasonably up to date DSLR (Digital single lens reflex camera). This allows them to use manual and other functions easily reaching a higher level of learning. We have a very limited number of these cameras which can be loaned for very short periods only.
- 2) A USB memory stick.
- 3) **An SD memory Card.** If a DSLR is not available in September – this card is essential to allow students to access school cameras
- 4) A SD Memory card reader.

(Please see the detailed information below to help you make choices)

We understand that this is a considerable expense and your support is very valuable for our students, but we do want to reassure you that we will support your son and daughter whatever their level of equipment.

Yours sincerely,

William Pym

(Teacher of Art and Photography)

DETAILED INFORMATION and SUGGESTIONS

The following equipment would be ideal for a student starting in photography, but please note other brands and models will be equally useful:

- 1) **A Nikon D3500 typical prices £380 - £450 with standard 18-55mm lens.** (strap, lens cap, small camera bag are all important too) These are compatible with school cameras.
https://www.nikon.co.uk/en_GB/product/digital-cameras/slr/consumer/d3500
Or earlier models in this series are available second hand and very good value: for example: A Nikon 3200/3300/3400 – (They are now discontinued as new) - these are very commonly available 2nd hand – They are very similar to the brand new ones and could be as little as £160 – but check that the deal includes a lens etc. and that the condition is good.
(Good fixed lens 'Bridge cameras' (£120 plus) and are also useful, but they are much harder to use for manual photography. As a minimum, ~~the~~ camera must allow the student to manually change ISO, aperture and shutter speed)

- 2) **A standard USB memory stick – ideally 16GB** (which would carry about 3 month's work, smaller sizes are useful too) – the purpose is to allow students to move digital files between school and home, especially useful if a student has access to image software on a home computer.
- 3) **A Standard camera SD memory card** - This is the card that goes in the camera. Typical costs - £10-£60 (For example ~~Sandisk~~ Sandisk 16/32 or 64 GB) - Camera kits normally have them as standard. **A personal SD card is vital if the student is intending to use school cameras at the start of the course, even for a short time.**
<https://shop.westerndigital.com/en-gb/products/memory-cards/sandisk-extreme-uhs-i-sd#SDSDXNE-016G-GNCIN>
- 4) **A SD memory card reader – typical costs £7.50 plus** - Recognised brands are best, as some cheap imports fail – best purchased from Curry's/Dixons, etc. This allows digital files to be transferred from camera to school computer for editing. (Note: a cable comes as standard with a camera kit.) Again, this becomes vital if a student is using school cameras.

Additional items for supporting learning that may also be useful:

(Photography is a very expensive activity so the following are wonderful but these items are NOT ESSENTIAL.)

- **Mobile smartphone** – these have excellent digital cameras and can be very useful for supporting learning, students must be able to download photos and bring them into school on a memory stick.
- **Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom.** - Only if a student has access to a home computer, these two image handling software programmes are very useful as they are the ones that they will be using in school. They can be licenced and downloaded as a photography package for a monthly rental from Adobe -
<https://www.adobe.com/uk/creativecloud/photography/compare-plans.html?promoid=L3XTXL8&mv=other> The offers vary from £8 to £19 a month
- **Tripod and flash gun**
- **Film Camera** – we teach basic analogue, traditional film photography, and students can use our fully equipped darkroom. If you have access to a traditional camera, the student can use this, which is very useful.

If you want any advice about purchasing new equipment – please do contact the art department: 01434-610336 or email Mr Pym [on](mailto:wpym@qehs.net): wpym@qehs.net.]

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will be sent to every student that confirms for photography A-level in due course.

We understand that some families may wish to wait until September or even later before purchasing an expensive camera. In some cases School bursaries may apply.

Surfaces - Photography

Task 2: Surfaces - Observational studies.

Photographers have always been fascinated by the surfaces, textures, and reflectiveness of objects and people.

On your phone or camera, take at least 20 photographs showing a variety of interesting surfaces.

Please consider:-

1. Quality of light (natural or artificial).
2. Composition
4. Texture, form & pattern

Choose your three favourite and present them in a Powerpoint document

Task 3 Pinterest -

Start looking at the QEHS Photography Pinterest boards.
Use the QEHS Pinterest site as a starting point:

Look at this board in particular:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/qehsp/textures-and-surfaces-in-photography/>

Create your own Pinterest account (or a new one just for photography)
Create a board and collect your own selection of surfaces and textures images



Surfaces - Photography

Task 4: Start a digital sketchbook

Using powerpoint start a digital sketchbook – you can see some examples here:

https://queenelizabethhigh-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/wpy_qehs_net/Ek-QSO8fK9JMIbeuGSFDtbEBCcyI23L6lg761_ZIriPLWw?e=tL3emh

First make a moodboard using some of the images that you put on your moodboard.

Then make more pages to record some of your own photography that fits the theme 'Surfaces'

Task 4 – Take some more photos in response to the images you put on your moodboard

Look in detail at the photos you chose for your moodboard.

See if you can use these ideas to take more 'surfaces' photography

Record these in your powerpoint.



READ THIS IF YOU WANT TO TAKE GREAT PHOTOGRAPHS. HENRY CARROLL

The Book we would recommend is:

Read This If You Want To Take Good Photographs.

Author: Henry Carroll.

ISBN: 978-1-78067-335-6.

Review is here:

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18269594-read-this-if-you-want-to-take-great-photographs>.

NOTE:

This is not a text book and it is not compulsory to buy this book. It is a recommendation and good background reading.



Formal Elements:

There are seven formal elements of photography

- line
- shape
- form
- texture
- pattern
- colour
- space

- Task 1: Using Pinterest and other research, create a mood board in your powerpoint document for each of these formal elements.
- Task 2: Plan 3 shoots, each based on one of the formal elements. Take a minimum of 15 photos for each one. Present these as thumbnails. Enlarge and present the best image from each shoot and explain why you think they are successful.

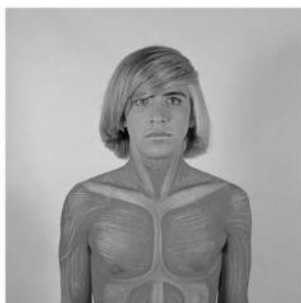
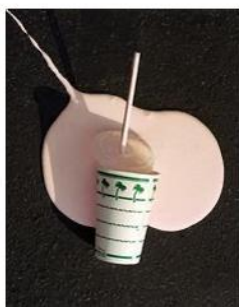
PHOTOGRAPHY @ QEHS - Bridging to A-level - HOLIDAY PROJECT

46 DAYS OF SUMMER 'a personal project'

Wherever you are this summer, at home or if you are able to travel, on the street or in the park, inside or on top of the world.....you will be looking and seeing all the time.....can you record it to use in your projects next year? 46 long days of summer holidays....what will you SEE?

Your challenge: Take 46 fascinating, interesting, different photographs. One a day!

- You could save your digital photos to your computer and have them ready on a memory stick to bring to school at the start of next term.
- The purpose of this project is to get a range of exciting and interesting photographs, this means the quality is more important than subject matter or how it fits the brief – think creatively!
- We want to publish an ebook with the 46 most interesting images.....will one of these be yours?



Things to think about:

- Detail or big picture? Maybe look for lots of different types of photos. Try for interesting angles, looking through things or looking down, abstract patterns, micro details,.
- Repetition, close up, near or far, pattern, tone, textures, Photoshop, Instagram, adding words, groups of people or objects, action, important places, light and shadows,
- Ideally you should aim to take one a day, but this is not a rule, you can catch up and get to the magic number by taking more on one day than another.

NEED INSPIRATION?

Photographers : Irving Penn, William Klein, Cindy Sherman - Bill Brandt Sam Taylor Wood Andreas Feininger Man Ray

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/gehsp/days-of-summer/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/gehsp/living-a-teenage-life/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/gehsp/the-human-condition/>

<https://www.pinterest.com/duncanson1333/streetwise/>