

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) or Mirrorless camera (with lens and manual settings). Attached to these instructions is a letter to be sent home which is a list of the equipment we would like you to consider getting. Please note that you may be eligible for a bursary to help with the costs of this.
2	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.
3	SURFACES	Take a photoshoot (set of 24 photos or more) showing the texture, reflection or detail on the surfaces you find around you
4	Start a powerpoint	Using powerpoint start a digital sketchbook. 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	46 Days of summer	Taking PHOTOS is the MOST important thing – so try this project all through the holidays.... (see last slide) Take 46 photos to record your summer (at home or if we get away.....)

Dear Parent, Guardian,

Re: Photography A level course

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. Please note that you may wish to wait to see results and confirm subject choices before making a major purchase.

Students should have regular access to:

- 1) **An SD Memory Card.** - This is the most important item to have ready to use in September – with an SD Memory Card a student can use our school cameras from day 1.
- 2) A reasonably up to date DSLR (Digital single lens reflex camera) or newer mirrorless camera (with manual adjustable settings). This allows them to easily use manual and other functions allowing a higher level of learning. We have a limited number of these cameras which can be loaned for short periods only.
- 3) A SD Memory card reader.

Please note that if a camera is difficult to source for the first lesson in September – then a memory card is essential to use school cameras. (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. Equally 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 Camera – from these broad options
 - a. A **Sony A6000** (Secondhand) mirrorless camera with lens (or brand new models Sony A6400/6700). We will be using these as teaching cameras. Link to film here. If buying second-hand ensure that the camera comes with a lens (18-50mm is ideal).
 - b. A second-hand **Nikon D3500** – Although discontinued, so not available new, we have a number of these and it will also be a camera that we continue to use for teaching. Note earlier models in the same series work just as well -Nikon D3200, D3300, D3400, - prices can be as low as £250 but the normal warnings about the quality and reliability of the seller apply. Make sure the deal includes camera body AND lens.
 - c. A new or second hand Canon or other brand, DSLR. June 2025 Canon are offering a well priced new kit: <https://www.canon.co.uk/>. There are many other second hand options available.
 - d. A **family Digital (DSLR) camera**. If you have an older digital camera in the family. These are welcome. If they are older than 10 years the quality of the digital image might be disappointing. Please do consider using a family camera to start learning.

- 2) A **Standard camera SD memory card** - typical costs - £5- £30 (For example Sandisk ULTRA 8/16 or 32 GB) - Camera kits normally have them as standard. **A personal memory card is vital if the student is intending to use school cameras at the start of the year.** Link to: [Typical San Disc ULTRA memory card](#)
- 3) A **SD memory card reader** – typical costs £7.50 plus - Recognised brands are best, as some cheap imports fail – best purchased from [Curry's online](#) or 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 learn to use the 'One Drive' storage on the Office 365 system allowing students to access work from school and home.
- **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 – [Photoshop and Lightroom package from about £10.00 per month](#). **Please note that students have full access to this software in school with their own log in - but this cannot be used outside school.**
- **Tripod and flash gun.** A tripod is very useful as it is a standard part of a photographer's kit, we do have a good number which can be signed out and regularly borrowed.
- **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. We also have a large selection of film cameras to borrow.
- **Camera Case or Bag** – A padded bag to put the camera in. Students will be carrying their camera in and out of school so a protective bag or case will reduce the risk of damage.

Please note that a hard copy of this letter will be sent to every student that indicated that they might choose photography A-level.

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, please ask for information from the 6th form office.

Surfaces - Photography

Task 3: 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 2 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://uk.pinterest.com/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: Click on the link.

[Photography Bridging](#)

First make a moodboard using some of the images that you found on Pinterest.

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.



parkablogs.com/node/10700

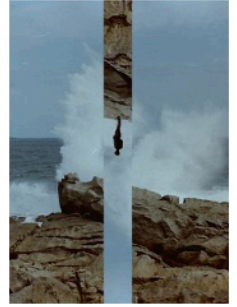
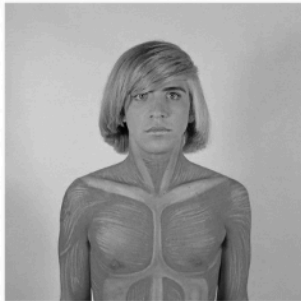
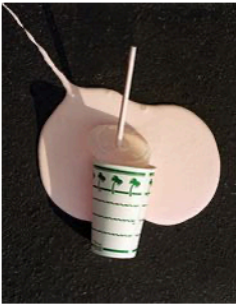
PHOTOGRAPHY @ QEHS - Bridging to A-level - HOLIDAY PROJECT

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/>