

A Level

Photography

Why study this course at Cronton Sixth Form?

The A-Level photography course has been commended by the examining board as being 'one of the best structured courses in the country' for many years. Students will be tutored by working artists. The A Level Photography course is designed to help students develop visual communication through conceptual and practical skills with traditional and digital technologies.

The course allows students the opportunity to develop intellectual, imaginative and creative thinking whilst gaining knowledge of the processes and use of the camera in past and contemporary society.

What will I study?

Students will study traditional darkroom and digital processes and techniques in experimental workshops at the beginning of the course. This gives students the necessary skills to succeed in their personal investigation, which consists of students exploring an extended visual enquiry on a photographic related theme e.g. text and image, urban landscapes or architecture. Students are then set an externally set assignment that involves developing a portfolio on a set theme in photography. Students will be taught how to analyse and evaluate images and how these issues relate to society, culture and politics. Students will develop personal styles in photography and expand their visual language exploring how visual elements communicate imagery to an audience.



How will I be assessed?

Students will be required to successfully complete one coursework portfolio (Component 1) and a timed piece with supporting portfolio (Component 2). These portfolios are assessed against four assessment objects: Develop, Explore, Record and Present. All students will be required to produce first-hand coursework for each component. There are six formal assessment points throughout the year with written and verbal feedback. Informal assessment is continuous throughout the year.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 3 x Grade 5's and 2 x Grade 4's at GCSE including a Grade 5 in English Language. One of your Grade 5's must be in an Art related subject. Every student must submit an appropriate portfolio at interview.



Opportunities

Students studying in the School of Creative Arts and Media will be inspired by our practicing artists/tutors to develop and nurture their own creative talents. They will benefit from a wide range of experiences provided through our partnerships with leading industry experts.

These include international trips to New York, Berlin and Paris, national competitions, master classes and key note events at Tate Liverpool and a High Profile Annual Exhibition.

Portfolio

All students applying for an Art and Design course will be expected to show a portfolio of work at interview.

The Cronton Experience

At Cronton you can take part in many enrichment activities such as:

- The High Achievers Programme
- Professional Programmes for Tomorrow's Scientists, Lawyers and Teachers
- Centres of Excellence in STEM, Performing Arts and Sport
- Student Leadership Team
- College Sports Teams
- TASS (Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme)
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- International Trips
- Scholarships



Learn more about the Cronton Experience at:
www.cronton.ac.uk/experience

Can I study this course if I have not taken it at GCSE?

You do not need to have previously studied this subject at GCSE, however, you will need to provide a portfolio of photographs to show an understanding of your personal interest in the subject.

Enrichment Opportunities

A Level Photography Students who want to study outside standard lesson times are always welcome. The Art and Design department has a library and an area for drop-in sessions outside of students timetabled hours of study. The department also run enrichments in painting and drawing.

What can this course lead on to?

Students could progress onto the Level 3/4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design at Cronton; this will develop student portfolios and skills ready for specialist degrees within art and design. Students may gain entry onto a BA (Hons) degree in Photography, Animation, Illustration, Fine Art, Architecture, Fashion, Surface Design,

Interior Design, Jewellery or Teaching. Following this, students can enter employment in an art or design related industry, such as a gallery or media environment.

Any additional costs?

We ask students to provide their own DSLR cameras, although the college does have cameras students can borrow to complete assignments. Students will also have to pay for printing costs (this is additional to the print budget each student receives from the college), plus costs for educational trips and visits.

What have previous students said about this subject?

"I feel really lucky that we have a dark room at Cronton College, which means that we can learn things like pinhole photography, photograms, developing film and we can then use these in our own personal investigations. We also have access to photoshop on the College computers. The trips are amazing, as it has highlighted professional photographers that I can then go and investigate"

Ofsted Outstanding 2020

"Relationships between learners, apprentices and their teachers and assessors are excellent"

"Learners and apprentices develop their confidence, resilience and strong independence skills"

