

FILM STUDIES

Curriculum Vision Statement

"You do what you believe in".

Patty Jenkins

Vision

In Film Studies at Northampton School for Girls (NSG) we enable our students to become confident consumers, creators and critics of Film, by exposing them to a wide variety of texts and directors across a 2 year GCSE course. We build on the analytical skills that our students have developed throughout their KS3 study in English and apply them to our focus films as well as developing a thorough understanding of the social and institutional contexts that they were created in. Our girls become critical, evaluative, independent viewers who can evaluate and interrogate the techniques used by filmmakers, as well as being able to recognise the societal impact of the themes explored within texts. Furthermore, we equip the students themselves to become creative and engaging screen writers across the course by teaching them the technical skills involved in writing a screenplay. We enable students to develop their ideas and become competent with the Master Script layout. Finally, our students feel empowered to voice their ideas in discussion as well as recognising the importance of engaging with the thoughts and opinions of their peers.

Students are encouraged to continue their study into KS5, where we are one of the only schools in the area to offer the A-level Film Studies course. This can then lead to study at higher education level before entering the Film Industry - a booming area of the UK economy worth billions of pounds.

Implementation

The course content in GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films - a US independent film as well as films from Europe, including the UK, South Africa and Australia. During their 3 weekly lessons, students will watch, analyse and discuss set films, picking apart the features utilised by filmmakers to convey meaning to an audience.

Creativity is also an important part of the course, with students spending time in Year 10 developing their idea for a screenplay. This is then built on during the latter stages of Year 11, where students finely tune their work to ensure it is an excellent example of a potential film within their chosen genre. This is also a practical skill; students create their screenplays in the exact same format as screenwriters in the Film Industry. The nature of the course is incredibly varied, meaning students are exposed to films they are unlikely to have explored before, increasing their understanding of not only Film, but the wider world.

Our Programmes of Study

	YEAR 10	YEAR 11
Autumn Term	Introduction to Film Studies: Micro & Macro features. British Film: Attack the Block	Film History & US Cinema: Ferris Bueller's Day Off & Rebel Without a Cause
Spring Term	Global Film: Slumdog Millionaire or District 9	Specialist Writing: Juno or Whiplash
Summer Term	Coursework International non-English language film: Let the Right One In or Rabbit Proof Fence	Revision & final coursework edits

Assessment

Year 10 & 11

Assessments are half termly and are in the style of exam questions. Pre-public exams are taken in both Year 10 and Year 11.

Independent Learning

Students will be expected to further their understanding of film by exploring a broad range of films outside of the classroom, exploring directors, genres and themes outside of their previous experiences. They are guided to do this through discussion in class and "watching" lists suggested by their class teachers. We also have a number of DVD resources to share with students on request.

The Home Learning for our GCSE students is set weekly and students are expected to ensure their folder of notes is well-organised and suitable for exam revision.

