

photography

Transition Booklet

# photography

## Photography /fə'togrəfi/ (noun)

...The word "**photography**" was created from the Greek roots φωτός (phōtos), genitive of φῶς (phōs), "**light**" and γραφή (graphé) or "drawing", together meaning "drawing with light".

### Introduction:

Since its invention in 1839 the process of image making has revolutionised the way in which we communicate through visual media. In modern times the art of photography has become an integral part of our vocabulary and society, imagery overtaking the written and spoken word as the most commonly used communication tool commercially and socially.



Photography A Level, under the Art and Design Specification, is an opportunity for students to widen their visual vocabulary and become confident in expressing yourself through visual media. Students will learn new photographic techniques, learn how to master the camera as well as studio equipment and digital editing in Photoshop. They will use these skills to develop and produce their own work, developing their ideas and creative expression.



Throughout the year you will be expected to work independently on your work, organising shoots outside of school or travelling to locations, to create new and exciting work.

In this booklet you will find information about the course's assessment, contents, equipment advice and the transition work. All the courses content is online at <https://simmonsphotography3.wixsite.com/mrsimmonsphotography>.

Looking forward to seeing you and your transition work in Sept!

Mr Simmons

## Course Structure:

The 2 year course involves an initial introduction period where you will learn mastering the camera, digital editing using Photoshop, studio lighting, artist analysis and how to develop your own personal work.

First Year		Second Year
Introduction	Personal Investigation	Final Exam
Introduction and <b>skills workshops</b> .  Developing <b>Photoshop</b> and <b>camera skills</b> .  <b>Practice project</b> to learn the <b>structure of an A-Level project</b> ,	<b>Select an area of Photography to investigate</b> , researching <b>relevant contexts</b> and <b>artists</b> .  <b>Develop your own ideas</b> and <b>work linking to your research</b> and findings.  <b>Experiment with different techniques</b> and <b>processes to enhance your work</b> .  <b>One-to-one weekly feedback</b> on progress.	<b>Externally set theme</b> .  Paper given <b>1st Feb</b> .  <b>15 hour final exam</b> period to produce final response.

## Assessment:

Throughout the course you will receive regular verbal feedback from teachers about the progress of your work as well as advice on how to develop and improve. These informal discussions occur in every lesson alongside regular class wide crits, where the class discuss each work and offer advice.

You are formally assessed against the four 'assessment objectives', which will be discussed at the beginning of the course and throughout. It is important you understand these and ensure that your work and overall project answers them as best as you can.

Assessment Objective One	Assessment Objective Two	Assessment Objective Three	Assessment Objective Four
<b>Links between artist's work and your own</b> .  <b>Quality of research</b> , analyzing artists work.	<b>Experimenting with different technique and ideas</b> .  <b>Building on your idea and improving it</b> .	<b>Quality of your photographs, is the lighting good? Is it well composed? Is the idea clear?</b>  How well you <b>reflect on your work</b> .	<b>Your final response, is it successful visually?</b> Does the <b>idea come through the image clearly?</b> Is it <b>developed throughout the project?</b>

+ Each assessment objective is **marked out of 24** for each Unit or project.

+ You will have opportunities to **assess your own work** as well as **regular feedback in monitoring sessions**.

## Equipment:

Although we have a series of cameras, tripods and equipment available for students to borrow throughout the course, having your own, although not essential, would help you in producing work. If you are going to purchase your own equipment you can follow this guide, however you are more than welcome to shop around. If you have any questions feel free to email me ([gsimmons@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:gsimmons@nsg.northants.sch.uk))

- **Cameras:**

- You need to aim for a "Fully manual DSLR" to allow you to take control of all aspects of the camera when producing work.
- Canon and Nikon are the most popular brands; however, these are not the only ones.
- A popular and cost-effective model past students have used are the Canon 1000 series (Canon 1000d, 1100d, 1200d, 1300d etc).
- Buying second hand from Gumtree or Ebay can be a real money saver, and please do go look for a bargain! But please beware of scams and ensure you go with your parents if you travel to collect an item. Check it is working before paying for it and if you are not sure, walk away! **(If you want me to check over a potential purchase, feel free to send me a link and I will have a look for you)**

- **Memory card for your camera:**

- Unless you buy a second-hand camera with one bundled in you will need a memory card to store your images on.
- These can be brought from online retailers, like Amazon, as well as various supermarkets.
- You should aim for at least 2Gb/4Gb.

- **Memory Stick:**

- As we are a digital course this is a crucial piece of equipment to store your work on and bring it to school. (We also use Google Drive to ensure it is backed up!)
- You can get these in various sizes, but I recommend 4Gb or more. You can purchase them from various outlets, cheapest being supermarkets or Amazon.



**Assignment:** Transition Task



## **Journey** (noun)

...An act of travelling from one place to another.

**Aim:** To prepare you for A Level Photography, tasking you to think carefully about **what**, **how** and **why** you photograph scenes with a clear theme and artist influence.

**Practical work:** You are required to:

- Go online to <https://simmonsphotography3.wixsite.com/mrsimmonsphotography/summerassignment>.

Now follow these steps:

- **1. Watch the videos below about creative composition.** This will hopefully give you some ideas on how to get started on approaching your subject in a much more creative way!
- **2.** Have a look at the **Composition page** to gain an understanding of some other techniques you could consider. You can click [here](#) to get it.
- **3. Have a look at some of the artist examples online** in terms of creative recording of a journey. Could you take inspiration from them? Perhaps use Pinterest or Lens Culture to research and discover more creative inspiration?
- **4. Create a title page called "Journey" and briefly explain how you interpreted the brief** and the creative approach you took. How did you approach the task? What did you intend to capture as you went out on your "journey"?
- **5.** Take **AS MANY PHOTOGRAPHS** as you can! Explore as many different compositions and ideas as you can while you are out! This will give you more options later on.
- **6.** Select **6 final images** to present in your sketchbook ready for an open discussion about your images, along with the rest of the class, during your first lesson. **Remember that you only have 6 spaces in your final images, so think carefully and critically if each image you select is worthy of a space.** If you are struggling with printing then please have them ready digitally so we can print them once we return.
- **7. Reflect BRIEFLY on your images.** How did you approach your subject? Why did you compose your image the way you did? What effect were you aiming to gain?
- **This is due in, ready to present, on your first lesson in Sept.** If you require any assistance, or would like some feedback as you shoot, please drop me an email:
- **Use the links on the website to assist and inspire you!**
- **Happy shooting!**