

13 March 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

### RE: GCSE Photography course

I write to seek your support in monitoring the on-going work and progress of your child in their GCSE Photography course.

As you are no doubt already aware, Unit 1 NEA: Coursework Portfolio is worth 60% and Unit 2 Externally Set Assignment (AKA Controlled test) is worth 40% of the GCSE award. I would like to share the following with you on the Externally Set Assignment:

- Week commencing 2 January – Externally set assignment paper was handed out to students
- January/February/March: Research/preparation for the Externally Set Assignment (unit 2)
- March: 10 hour period split into two days for the Externally Set Assignment:
  - 11A Ko1 Tuesday 21 and Tuesday 28 March
  - 11C Ko1 Wednesday 22 and Wednesday 29 March
- After completing the Externally Set Assignment pupils will then continue to develop their NEA: Coursework.

Your child has been given the controlled test paper to choose a starting point and then prepare ideas, drawings and investigations into artists/designers. Experience has proven that if preparation is started swiftly through the production of a collection of observational drawings and photographs, reinforced with investigations into artists/designers work and subsequent planning and design analysis, then success is most likely.

Our curriculum is based on developing our students' individual artistic personal responses to set themes. As such it is difficult to set formal and precise homework exercises. Nonetheless, we do expect Year 11 students to spend approximately an **extra two hours per week outside of lesson time**, working at home on drawings, research and investigations. Many already do this and more. Furthermore, the department staff stay in the art rooms on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays after school as well as most lunchtimes and we would encourage your child to use these facilities.

We are looking to provide Booster sessions during the Easter Break for the completion of coursework.

The pressures to complete coursework and exam preparation in many subjects are onerous. A steady, constant and focussed approach to completing work can ensure success and the department will strive to offer its facilities and guidance over the remaining months of this course. It is worth bearing in mind that there is no "revision" for this subject and after 31 May this GCSE will be complete.

I do hope that we can work together to ensure the best possible success in the forthcoming months. Please do not hesitate to telephone me or your child's photography teacher at school if you would like to discuss these issues further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E L Appleby', written in a cursive style.

Miss E L Appleby  
Head of Art