

# PHOTOGRAPHY - A LEVEL



Scan for Specification

Photography is a two-year A Level which will teach you composition, framing, exposure, editing and presentation of your work. It's a practical subject which requires a high level of self-motivation. You will explore numerous influential photographers during the first unit of work before choosing to specialise and designing your own projects.

## BEFORE YOU START



When the course begins, you will need to shoot using a DSLR camera and we have a system at college to loan these out to you overnight. Obviously not all of you will have access to one at present – if you do, that is great; feel free to use it but if you do not you can use your phone or a normal Point and Shoot digital camera if you have one. The important thing is to think about composition, framing and just being creative within the medium.

### Understanding Exposure

Photography literally means 'painting with light' and understanding how exposure works is perhaps the most important skill you will develop during the first term of year 12.

Whilst learning how to control Shutter speed, Aperture and ISO is much easier when you have a DSLR in front of you, you can absolutely make a start by reading up on the topic ...

Here's a place to start ...

<https://photographylife.com/what-is-exposure-triangle>

1. Take between 50 – 100 photos on the theme **Shapes Textures and Patterns** the best of these photos will be edited when you commence your studies with us at MV16.
2. **Shoot the alphabet** – try and find objects shaped like each of the 26 letters. Some will jump out of the subject at you while others will take a little more thinking about.



Then complete at least 3 of the photography challenges below

- **Self-Portrait Challenge:** The theme is "in your space," so capture a shot that captures you and whatever space in your house best represents you. Use the timer to avoid that 'Selfie vibe'
- **Close Focus/Macro Challenge:** Try taking pictures as close to your chosen subject as you can. Subject matter could be natural or manmade object.
- **Reflection Challenge:** Find/create and photograph a reflection. It doesn't have to be a self-portrait, but it certainly can be. Think about where reflections can be found and how they can distort the subject matter.
- **Don't Move Challenge:** Sit down somewhere outside and don't move for 30 minutes. Try to find/capture as many different compositions as you can from this one, locked down location.
- **Landscape Challenge:** Go on a walk, bike ride or drive and take your camera along for the journey; find some impressive natural vistas or even cityscapes when things fully open up again. Use a wide-angle lens if have access to one or the panoramic setting on your phone

- **Create a filter with your sunglasses.** Simply hold your sunglasses in front of your phone and take a photo! This creates a pretty, warm effect without having to run it through a filter. It is also great for taking photos with lots of sunlight in them without your photo becoming washed out and over exposed.
- **Take a silhouette photo** by standing directly between the point of light and the camera. Once you have taken the photo, boost up the contrast with editing to make yourself appear darker and the light behind you brighter.
- **Play with sun flares.** Photography means 'painting with light'. To create a sun flare, take photos about an hour or so before sunset. Make sure to not directly take a photo of the sun, but more let the light leak in through the sides of the photo



Research different types of Photography **careers** - there are many different types of photographer (fine art, commercial, fashion etc) and numerous ways you can make a living with Photography.

Put together a mind-map of the skills you would need to become a professional photographer