

Course  
Transition



**Bridging the Gap**  
*from School to College*













**Warlingham**  
Sixth Form College

**Year 11 > Year 12 Transition**  
**Summer Term 2022**  
**A Level Art (Photography)**



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# COURSE OVERVIEW

**Title of Course:** OCR A Level Art and Design: Photography (H604)

## What is this course about?

The course, just like GCSE, is designed to encourage you to develop your skills, creativity, imagination and independence based on personal experience, taught skills and critical understanding. You will show this through your responses to a range of stimuli. It provides you with an opportunity for you to take a personal interest in why photography matters. This course will allow you to understand the working practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries. It provides freedom for you to experiment and take risks with your work whilst developing your own style.

**Component 01: Personal Investigation** (60% 120 marks) This component comprises of two discrete but linked elements.

### Element 1: Practical Portfolio

This is a practical portfolio with supporting contextual research in which you are expected to develop a personal response based on your own theme leading to a finished realisation(s) or outcome(s). This portfolio will be presented in a digital PowerPoint portfolio and can be supported with work on canvases, projection, installation, sculpture or photo paper. There is no restriction on the scale of work produced .

You must show that you have:

- Independently developed your ideas through sustained and focused investigations in response to your chosen starting point.
- Produced material informed by contextual and other sources that informs the development of your practical work.
- Explored ideas, techniques or processes appropriate to your chosen theme.
- Recorded observations from sources relevant to intentions.
- Critically reviewed and refined your work as it progresses.
- Used your planning and preparation to produce coherent realisation(s)/outcome(s).

You must provide evidence of all the assessment objectives through the careful selection and presentation of your work.

### Element 2: Related Study

The aim of the related study is to enable you to develop your ability to communicate your knowledge and understanding of art historical movements, genres, practitioners and artworks.

- It builds your understanding of the relationship between society and art.
- Art historical terms, concepts and issues.
- Methods of researching, investigating and analysing.
- How works are interpreted and evaluated.

It is a requirement of the related study that a bibliography is used.



# COURSE OVERVIEW

## Component 02: Externally set task (40% 80 marks)

An early release paper will be issued on 1 February of Year 13. You will be given seven themes, each with a range of written and visual starting points, briefs and stimuli. A response should be based on one of these options. The same assessment objectives are applied to this task as the personal investigation.

You must show that you have:

- Independently developed your ideas through sustained and focused investigations in response to your chosen starting point.
- Produced material informed by contextual and other sources that informs the development of your practical work.
- Explored ideas, techniques or processes appropriate to your chosen theme.
- Recorded observations from sources relevant to intentions.
- Critically reviewed and refined your work as it progresses.
- Used your planning and preparation to produce coherent realisation(s)/outcome(s).

All preparatory work must be completed by 9am on the first day of your Externally Set Task.

## Assessment Objectives

- AO1 Develop ideas through sustained and focused investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and critical understanding.
- AO2 Explore and select appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes, reviewing and refining ideas as work develops.
- AO3 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions, reflecting critically on work and progress.
- AO4 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and, where appropriate, makes connections between visual and other elements.

## Knowledge and Understanding

Learners are required to develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of:

- Relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources
- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts
- How images and artefacts relate to the time and place in which they were made and to their social and cultural contexts
- Continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology.



# OUR EXPECTATIONS

## College Expectations for Academic Success

The College will work closely with all students and parents to create a purposeful, creative and stimulating environment in which students are encouraged to fully develop - both academically and personally.

We will expect you to take responsibility for your own behaviour and learning. The current College Committee along with the student body have discussed and agreed that students should commit to:

- Ensuring academic success through regular attendance and punctuality at all required registrations, lessons, supervised study lessons and Inspire Periods. Attendance which drops below 95% reduces Key Stage 5 performance by at least one grade, so it is taken very seriously.
- Completing all set tasks on time to the best of your ability, making full use of study periods and homework to enable you to meet all deadlines.
- Using study time effectively by bringing all required equipment and resources with you and making full and regular use of the College study rooms and LRC, respecting the need for silent studying conditions.
- Working closely with all your teachers to develop an effective working relationship based on mutual respect and discussing your work with them on a regular basis and meeting targets set.
- Developing your skills as an independent, self-evaluative learner and work closely with your tutor in monitoring and discussing your academic progress. As an independent learner, if you miss a lesson, it is your own responsibility to find the teacher and catch up with the work missed.
- Organising your work efficiently and effectively into folders for each subject, making full use of individual subject expectations and using Cornell Notes daily to ensure work in your folders is relevant and meaningful.
- Keeping mobile phones out-of-sight in all classrooms and during assemblies so that lessons are not disturbed and/or important information is missed.
- Attending all parents' evenings and arrange appointments with your teachers to discuss your progress and work.



# OUR EXPECTATIONS

## Course-specific Expectations for Academic Success

The Art Department will support you fully to complete all of your photography work both in lesson and when working independently. **We now have Canon DSLRs to loan to students, as well as a newly equipped photography studio and the newest Photoshop installed on our Photography computers.** To help us support you to reach your potential and achieve the highest grade possible, we ask that you meet the following Art Department expectations throughout the duration of your studies:

- Bring your own camera, tripod and SD card to every lesson where possible.
- Develop independence and a curiosity in the topics we cover. Keep and regularly update your E-Portfolio.
- Work exceptionally hard, committing to a challenging programme of study.
- Be organised: keep to deadlines, be on time to lessons.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help. Either at the end of the lesson or email the member of staff concerned.
- Be prepared to visit galleries, museums and places of interest, such as parks, cities and the coast. Spend quality time independently working in the photo studio, B14 and at home.
- Identify and acknowledge all sources consulted during your research which should be in the form of a bibliography of books, journals and websites.

## Skills and Techniques

- Record experiences and observations, in a variety of ways using photographic techniques; undertake research and gather, select and organise visual and other appropriate information.
- Explore relevant resources; analyse, discuss and evaluate images, objects and artefacts; and make and record independent judgements.
- Use knowledge and understanding of the work of others to develop and extend thinking and inform your own work.
- Generate and explore potential lines of enquiry using appropriate media and techniques
- Apply knowledge and understanding in making images and artefacts; review and modify work; plan and develop ideas in the light of their own and others' evaluations.
- Organise, select and communicate ideas, solutions and responses, and present them in a range of visual, tactile and/or sensory forms.

## Knowledge and Understanding

You are required to develop practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding of:

- Relevant materials, processes, technologies and resources.
- How ideas, feelings and meanings can be conveyed and interpreted in images and artefacts.
- How images and artefacts relate to the time and place in which they were made and to their social and cultural contexts.
- Continuity and change in different genres, styles and traditions.
- A working vocabulary and specialist terminology.



# USING CORNELL NOTES

The Cornell Notes system is a note-taking system devised by Walter Pauk, an education professor at Cornell University. It is a proven method that establishes a more effective learning process.

It is designed to help the user think and reflect upon the notes they have made as well as making them more useful for revision purposes.

Please [click here](#) to watch a video that explains how to take Cornell Notes properly.

	DATE	MODULE/CLASS	TOPIC
<h2>CUES</h2> <p>(reduce &amp; recall)</p> <p>.....AIM.....</p> <p>reduce notes to essential ideas to practice recall</p> <p>WRITE SOON AFTER CLASS</p> <p><u>Step 1.</u></p> <p>Review NOTES column + pull out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- key words</li><li>- key concepts</li><li>- authors</li><li>- dates</li><li>- facts</li></ul> <p><u>Step 2.</u></p> <p>Formulate questions based on your NOTES e.g. what are Pascal's 4 principles of complexity theory?</p> <p><u>Step 3.</u></p> <p>Write these cues and questions in this column alongside the corresponding NOTES</p>	<h2>NOTES (record)</h2> <p>-----AIM-----</p> <p>record as many key points as possible</p> <p>TAKE DURING CLASS</p> <p>What do I write here?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- key words and ideas</li><li>- important dates / people / places</li><li>- diagrams / charts</li><li>- formulas</li><li>- examples / case studies</li><li>- critique - strengths / limitations</li></ul> <p>Top tips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- use bullet points instead of full sentences</li><li>- use symbols and abbreviations</li><li>- leave a line between ideas</li><li>- don't mindlessly copy from the slides or textbook - write in your own words where possible</li><li>- use a method that works for you. Take notes in a format that you understand so you can make sense of them later.</li></ul>		
<h2>SUMMARY (reflect &amp; review)</h2> <p>-----AIM-----</p> <p>review the main ideas + reflect on their importance</p> <p>WRITTEN AFTER CLASS</p> <p>Briefly summarise the main points from your notes. This section is useful when searching for info later.</p> <p>Think about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- why is this info important?</li><li>- what conclusions can I draw?</li></ul>			



# REVIEW / REVISE

## Self-reflection of your understanding of photography

We all have an understanding of photography, we use our cameras on our phones almost every day! I would like you to use this knowledge, as well as some of the wider reading, watching, listening and researching as suggested in the following pages, to have a go at responding to the question:

### Why is photography important? (1000-1500 words)

Some guiding questions you could use to answer this are:

- Why have you chosen to study photography at A Level?
- Why is photography an appropriate way of making art?
- Is there always a place for photography in our society?
- What would it be like if photography did not exist?
- What impact has photography had on the world and why—both historically and the modern day?
- Why is photography better than painting/drawing?
- How can you show meaning in photography?
- Why would you use photography to create artwork?







# WATCH

Search **TedTalks** for 100s of videos about photography to spark your interest.

<https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=photography>

**TED**Talks

Use the tutorials on **PHLearn** which give excellent tutorials on photoshop and photography skills as well as other tips and tricks.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PhlearnLLC>

**PHLEARN**

Follow **Peter McKinnon**, to see how a real photographer works. He teaches photography and cinematography, so will be helpful for anyone interested in video work too!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3DkFux8lv-aYnTRWzwaiBA>



Subscribe to see the work of another AMAZING surrealist photographer, **Erik Johannsson**, his process is one that I think every A Level Photography student should aspire to!

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjLYVUB1qQquMTSL4n8NY8g>



See photography work by past students from the channel of **Mr G Robinson-White**. He works with a different exam board but the assessment objectives are the same. There are some excellent examples of A\* student work on this channel and some excellent examples of projects and themes that have been developed.

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCctj9\\_oEN0BsvPZPwzVcoAA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCctj9_oEN0BsvPZPwzVcoAA)

 **YouTube**

Get familiar with photoshop using **Adobe Photoshop CC Tutorials**

<https://helpx.adobe.com/uk/photoshop/tutorials.html>





## LISTEN TO

**Scenario** is a series of audio documentaries that each go behind the scenes of a specific photographer. To date, there have been six episodes featuring photographers including Clare Hewitt, who takes landscape shots for her pen friend on Death Row; Lewis Khan, who has an artists' residency at Chelsea and Westminster hospital, where he takes images of staff and patients; and Jennifer Balcombe, whose long-term project focuses on her brother's physical changes throughout gender transition.



<https://scenariopodcast.com/episodes>

**A Photographic Life** is a weekly podcast by photographer, writer, lecturer and filmmaker Grant Scott, where he discusses the latest news, themes and issues surrounding the photographic community. Episodes are normally around 20 minutes long. There are over 100 episodes in the library so far – so plenty to choose from.

<https://unitednationsofphotography.com/category/audio-2/podcasts-a-photographic-life/>

**A small voice**—This fortnightly podcast delivers exactly what it promises in the title: in-depth, high quality interviews with a diverse range of world-class photographers. Episodes typically last between one and two hours, so host Ben Smith really gets to dig deep. Smith works as a professional photographer but he originally trained as a journalist, and it shows in the professionalism of his interviews, which are always on point and cut right to the heart of the matter.

## A SMALL VOICE CONVERSATIONS WITH PHOTOGRAPHERS

<https://bensmithphoto.com/asmallvoice/>

Available as both a video and audio podcast, **Picture This** sees professional photographers Chelsea and Tony Northrup dig deep into the history, technology, and personalities of photography. Launched in 2016, this slickly produced weekly show offers unbiased reviews of cameras and insightful advice on technique, from two presenters who have strong opinions on the subject, and show unceasing enthusiasm for it.

<http://picturethis.libsyn.com/>

You're probably already aware of the photo news site Peta Pixel, but did you know they also did a podcast? Mostly hosted by Mike "Sharky" James, a retired newspaper photographer and magazine editor, this once twice-weekly show fused together news, opinions, humour and real-world experience. Now up to episode 334, **PetaPixel Photography Podcast** is a great listen for anyone wanting to improve their photography - and especially if you're looking to upgrade your kit, as James gives detailed and unbiased reviews of the latest tech that will help you understand whether it's worth buying or not.

**PetaPixel**

<https://petapixel.com/podcast/>



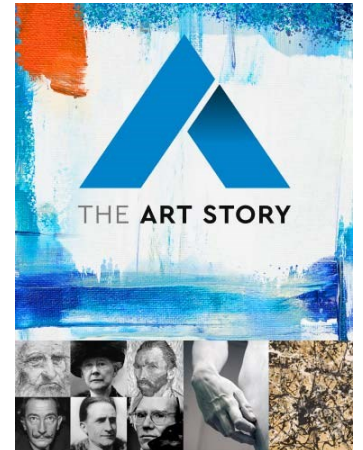
# READ

Explore **The Art Story** website. There is information here about a variety of art movements and artists. It is an amazing resource for future research and to gain an understanding of the art and photography you like.

<https://www.theartstory.org/section-movements-timeline.htm>

Read some articles from **Art21** to find out about artists and the way they work.

<https://art21.org/read/>



Check out **This is Colossal** to find out about new artists you may not have heard of.

<https://www.thisiscolossal.com/category/art/>



Explore **The Tate** website for information about art movements and artist's work.

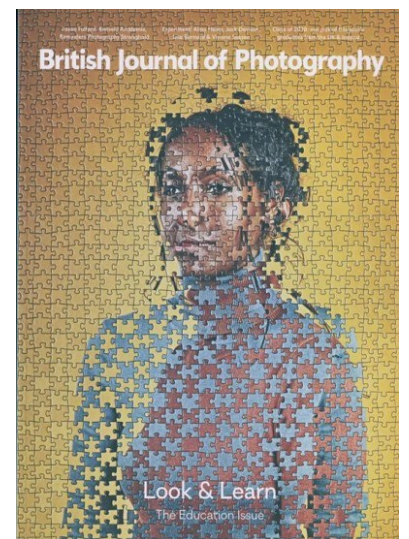
<https://www.tate.org.uk/>

Read articles about art and design on **The Guardian**.

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign>

Read articles published by the **British Journal of Photography**.

<http://www.bjp-online.com/>



Check out **Magnum Photos**.

<https://www.magnumphotos.com/>

Look at the **500PX Photography Community**.

<https://500px.com/home>





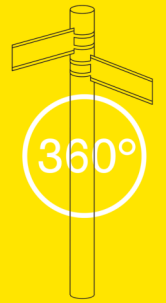
# RESEARCH

## Virtual Gallery Tours

With lockdowns, you can now take virtual tours through a lot of famous international art galleries. Use this opportunity to explore one of the following galleries or find your own by downloading **Art Passport!** You can travel ALL over the world.

<https://www.galleriesnow.net/artpassport-app/>

GalleriesNow



ArtPassport

Go on a 360 degree tour of the **Tate Modern**.

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/360-video/grimshaw>



Go to the **National Gallery**

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/visiting/virtual-tours>

Visit the **New York Guggenheim**.

<https://www.guggenheim.org/plan-your-visit/guggenheim-from-home>



Take part in some activities on offer from **The Photographers Gallery**.

<https://thephotographersgallery.org.uk/visit>

Look at a wide range of virtual exhibitions on **V21 Artspace**.

<https://v21artspace.com/virtual-exhibitions>



CAPTURING real time arts, culture, museums & heritage exhibitions, galleries, spaces & objects to produce interactive 3D virtual walkthroughs & immersive VR experiences the closest thing to BEING THERE



# COMPLETE

This transition document has been created to ease your transition into Year 12 photography. Please try to engage with it as much as possible to inspire you and get you ready for your photographic study at Warlingham Sixth Form College.

Please complete the following:

1. Using the resources on the Read, Watch, Listen and Research pages complete the written self-reflection task on the Review/Revise page of this guide.
2. Send this work to Ms Obmann or Mrs Bidwell and introduce yourself. It would be great to hear from you!
3. If you are able to, buy a second hand camera (not compulsory). Canon is recommended. Please do purchase an SD card (these are cheap and ensure you can keep your work with you at all times).
4. Complete the key word list and Dorothea Lange project that Ms Obmann emails through to you once you touch base with her.
5. Play around on the Canon Outside of Auto site to learn about how to shoot in manual mode <http://www.canonoutsideofauto.ca/play/>
6. Continue to use the Read, Watch, Listen and Research pages to continue to investigate and further your photography knowledge.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you and working with you to develop your photography skills and some awesome projects.

Take care of yourself and have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Mrs Bidwell & Ms Obmann

Email: J.BidwellWarlinghamTLT.co.uk or S.Obmann@WarlinghamTLT.co.uk





# APPENDICES / RESOURCES

Visit the OCR A Level Art and Design webpage. Here you can see the specification of this course (Photography is specialism 604).

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/art-and-design-h200-h600-from-2015/>

Read a past examiner's report on A Level Art and Design as a whole.

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/538045-examiners-report.pdf>

The recommendations for podcasts on this guide came from Tom May, this website includes more podcasts to explore.

<https://www.digitalcameraworld.com/features/the-best-podcasts-for-photographers>

Henry Carroll's series of books *Read This If You Want To Take Great Photographs...* is a great introduction to a variety of photography techniques and methods which we will explore in class. It would be beneficial to explore these beforehand.

Once you start the course, you will be able to look through hundreds of photographs on SharePoint and decide on the ones you like best!

