



The Cardinal Wiseman School
A Level Courses 2026-28

PHOTOGRAPHY

Entry requirements:

5 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes with at least a level 4 in English Language. It would also be preferable that a candidate has GCSE in art or photography but other students without a qualification in the subject will be admitted.

Basic photographic skills can be established quickly, enabling students new to the subject to access the course positively. The most important qualities that a student can bring to the course are high levels of attendance and punctuality, interest and creativity, enthusiasm and self-motivation, and a capacity for hard work.

What will I study?

- The use of photography to develop ideas and produce personal work
- Aspects of the history and development of photography
- Analysis and evaluation of photographs, looking at meaning and context
- Viewpoint, composition, differential focus, depth of field, subject matter and context
- Use of DSLR camera using manual modes
- Film processing, darkroom developing and printing, print control
- Image manipulation using computers, scanners, photocopiers and software

What are the examination/coursework requirements?

EXAM BOARD - EDEXCEL

Coursework: In year 12 students will work on a project that develops their photographic skills. Midway through y12 and throughout y13 students will work on an extended individual topic or personal investigation. This coursework will be a combination of supporting studies and personal outcomes. Students will also have to write a 1000-3000-word personal study (essay) which illustrates and links to their personal investigation, this is worth 12% of their coursework mark. Coursework accounts for **60%** of the total mark.

Examination: Theme to be set by the examination board. Your work will consist of supporting studies and a personal outcome.

The externally set assignment accounts for **40%** of your total mark.

You will have 15 hours to complete your externally set assignment.

What skills will I develop?

- Practical – Creative – Research - Critical, analytical and evaluative - Literacy - Problem-solving

How will this subject help me with my future career?

Photography combines well with the Arts, DT, Media, Film and other Humanities subjects. Degrees as diverse as Photography and Journalism, Digital Imaging, and Biological Imaging are available, providing entry to a broad career spectrum including still photography in food, fashion, sport, theatre and music, the moving image in television and film, laboratory processing, photographic retail, and the scientific research and development industry in photographic hardware and software.