

The Photography Curriculum at Five Acres High School

In Art, we learn different creative skills and techniques so we can express ourselves positively.

Intent

Why should all pupils learn this subject?

Students will be shown a deep understanding of the contextual influences of a variety of historical and contemporary photographers and artists and how their work has been used to represent a wide range of messages. Students will understand and be able to use the technical properties of a camera to produce personal and meaningful imagery taking inspiration from the artists and photographers studied. They will understand the ways in which meanings, ideas and intentions can be communicated through the use of figurative and non-figurative forms, image manipulation, close up and imaginative interpretation as well as through visual and tactile elements such as: colour, line, form, tone, texture, shape, pattern, composition, scale, sequence, surface and contrast.

Our students will use their creative skills alongside their engagement in a range of discourse to understand that Photography can not only be a way to capture a moment in time but can be used as a vehicle for social, cultural and political change. Students will develop their critical understanding of existing artwork and will approach this, and their own work, with a discriminatory lens to ensure that their work is refined and demonstrates a clear link between intention and outcome.

What is the core knowledge in this subject?

Core knowledge in Art can be broken down into the following components:

Formal Elements & Composition

- Line, Tone, Colour, Texture, Pattern and Shape & Form.
- Different compositional arrangements such as fore-, mid- and background but also extending to how the formal elements are arranged and used to convey intention and meaning.

Techniques & Processes

- Technical use of the camera including; Aperture, ISO setting & shutter speed.
- Colour Theory including primary colours, secondary colours, tertiary colours, complementary colours and analogue colours, as well as tints and shades.
- Manipulation of images; digital and physical.

Verbal & Written Analysis

- Using visual language (formal elements) to analyse different artists work through discussion and written form
- Make connections between artists' intention and the wider world e.g. historic, social and political.

Implementation

How is this subject taught at FAHS?

The key skill skills in photography are taught through the study of existing artists & photographers. These smaller studies collectively make up a large thematic project. Within each project students will develop ideas by exploring different artists, planning and executing photo shoots, recording information through drawing or written annotations and creating final outcomes. At the end of each project, pupils apply their learning to create their own final piece in response to the theme.

What are the key ways students practise in this subject?

- Identifying and analysing formal elements within artists work (verbal & written)
- Identifying and explaining processes and intentions within artists work (verbal & written)
- Applying artists techniques and processes
- Experiment with a wide variety of materials and techniques and refine approaches and outcomes as skills progress
- Create tonal drawings that consider proportion, accurate levels of tone and increasing levels of realism.
- Plan and develop own ideas by considering and adapting elements of artists work and other contextual studies
- Create own final outcomes in response to the theme.
- Evaluating outcomes at different stages to consistently and proactively develop ideas to realise own intentions.

Impact

What does assessment look like in this subject?

Teachers assess pupils' understanding during lessons. Each lesson begins with a mini quiz, designed to revisit key knowledge from previous lessons. These quizzes provide further formative opportunities to assess learning over time. End-of-unit assessments consist of marking their entire sketchbook/ project to ensure that students progress is marked over time as well as assessing all key assessment objectives. Therefore, it is vital that students continuously work hard in lessons as well as taking ownership of developing their skills at home.