

COURSE GUIDE 2021

# FILM & MEDIA

The  
**MEDIUM**  
IS THE  
MESSAGE.

MARSHALL MCLUHAN

# Media Studies

## Linear A Level

Exam Board: AQA

Full course specification:

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

## Join the conversation



@CarmelMediaDept

### Why choose Media Studies at Carmel?

A Level Media Studies is designed to enhance your enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of the media and its role in your daily life. This course introduces you to both media ideas and the practice of production, giving you the chance to develop a real understanding of media platforms, the contemporary media landscape and it's influential role in today's media saturated society.

### What will this course involve?

- Skills of enquiry, decision making and analysis
- Application of critical approaches to media issues
- Developing an appreciation and critical understanding of the media and its role both historically and currently in society, culture, politics and the economy
- Developing an understanding of the dynamic and changing relationships between media forms, products, media industries and audiences
- Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of the global nature of the media
- Application of theoretical knowledge and specialist subject specific terminology to analyse and compare media products and the contexts in which they are produced and consumed in order to make informed arguments, reach substantiated judgements and draw conclusions about media issues.

New York trip



### How will I be assessed?

The A Level assessment involves 30% coursework and 70% examination.

### Where does this course lead?

Because Media Studies develops so many skills, you are attractive to employers in a wide range of people-orientated careers. A Media Studies qualification will enable you to study Media Studies in Higher Education at degree level or contribute towards the points needed for entry to a range of other degrees in other subjects.

Students who have gained Media at Advanced Level have gone onto careers/ courses in IT, Digital Media, Media Production, Journalism, Public Relations, Business and Management to name a few!

New York trip



Since joining Carmel, I've gained more confidence and independence through the endless opportunities that are offered here.

There is great support from the staff and lots of facilities available around college for independent study. I enjoy A Level Media Studies as the tutors are very supportive and friendly, making me feel comfortable whilst being engaged in lessons.

I'd definitely recommend Media Studies as it allows you to expand your knowledge and develop analytical skills which are transferable in the constantly changing real world. It's a really interesting subject to study, looking at topics such as Music Videos, Advertisements and Radio.

During my first year, I have visited Liverpool Hope University allowing me to experience what Media Studies might be like after Carmel which gave me insightful and useful information I can use in the future.

When I leave Carmel, I hope to study Marketing at either the University of Liverpool or the University of Leeds. Media Studies has provided me with the skills I will need to be successful at University and to achieve all my goals, shaping me into a harder working and self-motivated person.

**Gemma Norfolk**  
Broughton Hall  
Studying:  
Media Studies,  
Sociology, English  
Language



# Film Studies

## Linear A Level

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Full course specification:

[www.eduqas.co.uk](http://www.eduqas.co.uk)

ADVERTISING  
BROADCAST JOURNALIST  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
MEDIA EVENTS  
RUNNER  
MULTIMEDIA  
SPECIALIST  
MEDIA  
JOURNALIST  
FILM DIRECTOR  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

### Why choose Film Studies at Carmel?

A Level Film Studies offers you the opportunity to develop and apply a range of high-level skills which will help prepare you for whichever pathway you choose beyond Carmel.

### What will this course involve?

You will be offered an in-depth and rigorous course of study, which requires you to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- A diverse range of film, including documentary, film from the Silent Era, experimental film and short film
- Film practices from a historical, national and global context
- Films' relationships with social, political, cultural, historical and technological contexts
- How films generate meanings and responses
- Film as an 'art' form
- The concept of 'spectatorship'
- Relevant theories of film consumption and production

The course will offer you the opportunity to complete coursework through pursuing either a filmmaking or a screenwriting option.

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment by examination will form 70% of your final marks on the course, with a further 30% contributed by coursework.

### Where does this course lead?

More than half of A Level Film students usually progress to directly relevant HE courses, with most others progressing to HE courses in wider creative arts/humanities areas.

### What support will I receive?

Every student will have access to extra tutorials run by experienced staff; these may be to enhance existing knowledge or just to give extra support to you if you have been absent or if you are finding a topic difficult to access. In the build up to examinations, regular revision sessions are offered to you to ensure you are fully prepared. All students have access to the dedicated computer suite when it is not being used for classes. Lessons are dynamic and engaging and all students are also encouraged to develop their skills of independent learning.



Studying Film at Carmel has not only fed my passion for the subject, but it's broadened my academic horizons and provided me with a range of both practical and critical skills to carry forward.

The course is wide-ranging, covering all cinematic bases from 'Golden Era' Hollywood to more recent British Independent films which ensures the lessons never lack engagement!

The coursework element of Film Studies provides different options for creative freedom such as screenplay-writing or producing your own short film. As well as this, the analytical skills you develop are valuable and transfer across to your other subjects and further education.

For me, Film Studies has been a subject that has extended beyond the classroom, inciting endless discussions with peers and offering numerous enrichment opportunities including an unforgettable trip to New York and a behind-the-scenes look into film classification delivered by the BBFC.

Beyond Carmel, I hope to study a combined degree in English and Film and pursue a career as a Film Writer and Director.

#### **Dan McKay**

St Edward's College

**Studying:**

Film Studies, Fine Art,  
English Language  
& Literature





**MEET THE TUTORS**

**Kath Hopkins**  
 Pastoral Director  
 Head of Media and  
 NEA Senior Moderator,  
 NEA writer and adviser  
 for AQA Media Studies  
[kath@carmel.ac.uk](mailto:kath@carmel.ac.uk)

**Paul Morrow**  
 Head of Film Studies  
[Paulm@carmel.ac.uk](mailto:Paulm@carmel.ac.uk)

**Entry Requirements**

**Film Studies** - You will need GCSE grade 5 in English Language.

**Media Studies** - You will need GCSE grade 5 in English Language and grade 5 in Media Studies (if studied).

**What other activities can I get involved in?**

The BFI Academy is now an established option for students to extend their knowledge and skills in a range of film-related workshops run by industry professionals. In 2019 the department had a highly successful trip to New York. Other affordable trips are offered each year, along with opportunities to see and hear a number of visiting speakers. These include former students studying or working in the media and film industries, the Head of Education from the BBFC in London, and staff from local universities. Students are also encouraged to build their own portfolio of work as part of enrichment activities.

**How successful are Carmel's Film & Media students?**

Film and Media Studies are very popular and successful courses with consistently very good results. An increasing number of our students each year leave to enter careers or further study in media or related areas. Past students have become journalists, camera operators for Sky, PR consultants/advertising executives, film makers, digital media managers and have entered a host of other such media related careers.

Media Studies	2017	2018	2019	2020
A*-B	55%	49%	44%	61%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	100%
Film Studies				
A*-B	87%	70%	62%	63%
A*-E	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Stretch and Challenge**

All Film and Media students are encouraged to enter film and journalism competitions to develop their skills and build up portfolios for future applications to university and employment. Film and Media students also contribute to the marketing of departments in college such as write-ups for educational visits as well as filming dance and theatre performances. Our best students may be invited to join the Creative Arts High Achievers' Programme.



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