



## Photography: Frequently Asked Questions

**The majority of FAQs are answered in the course leaflet but here is some extra subject specific information -**

**Do I need to have studied Photography before to study A-Level Photography at Carmel?** No, it is not essential for you to have studied Photography. The majority of our students have not studied Photography at GCSE or any equivalent level. We welcome all students regardless of their previous experience or qualifications in Photography.

**Will A-Level Photography at Carmel be much different to studying GCSE Photography at School?** A-Level Photography is taught and delivered to an advanced level, and although you may find some of the work more challenging, you will learn more about Photography than you have ever had the opportunity to learn before. If you have studied Photography at GCSE you may already be familiar with some of the software that we use, some of the techniques and terminology that we use and also the type and structure of work that we normally complete.

**What other subjects go well with Photography?** Students who study Photography usually study a wide range of courses. However, a significant number often study other creative subjects including Media, Graphics, Fine Art, Fashion & Textile Design. Some students choose to study Photography purely based on their interest and enthusiasm for taking Photographs, this is a perfectly acceptable reason to choose to study Photography at A-Level.

**Do you do any exams in Photography?** No, you don't do any exams in Photography. We do however have what's called an Externally Set Assignment, this is a project/assignment, and which forms part of your coursework, and which also contributes towards your final grade.

**How much coursework do you do in Photography?** The work that you produce, and which forms your final grade in Photography consists of 100% coursework. The coursework you produce mainly consists of practical work (photographs that you have taken), however there are also written elements which support and explain the work that you produce.

**Do I need my own camera?** Although most students studying Photography have access to a camera, some do not. The Photography Department provides cameras that students are able to loan if and when needed. It is therefore not essential that you have your own camera. A number of students also use their mobile phone to capture images, this is completely acceptable, and in some cases encouraged.

**Do I get taught the basics?** Yes, we will go through all of the basics that you need to know in order for you to capture effective images. We will also teach more advanced methods for those students who may already know the basics.

**What are the lessons like?** Lessons vary quite regularly in Photography. Some lessons involve tutor led sessions where you may learn about a range of techniques, processes and methods. All lessons are practical where independent working and studying is actively encouraged. Students are always given opportunities to explore methods of working that is of interest to them as individuals. Students are also given opportunities to produce work within the Photography Departments Darkroom or Photographic Lighting Studio.

**Do I need additional materials?** You do not need to purchase anything before starting the course in September. All materials are provided for you by the department.

**What computer software do you use?** All students have access to the colleges Adobe Creative Cloud when working in class, however this suite of software is also available remotely when working outside of the classroom, or at home. We will teach you numerous techniques and methods of how to improve or alter your

images using Photoshop and Lightroom, however we also introduce you to Indesign and Premiere which we often use to explore alternative ways of developing and presenting the work that you will produce.

**Will we learn about photographers?** Yes, learning about the work of photographers and other related practitioners is an integral part of the course. Learning about photographers gives students a better understanding of how to make improvements to their own work.