



BEECHEN CLIFF

A Level Photography

Aspiration Compassion Independence Respect



Equipment you will need to start the course.

As a minimum, you will need the get the following equipment to start the course in September –

- A DSLR camera. There are many to choose from, and shop around for the best prices, but good starter cameras are ones such as the Nikon D3300 and Canon EOS1100D. These sell for between £350 - £400 with a lens. Make sure you get a memory card with the camera as well.
- A Tripod
- A sketchbook. You will need to get one of these straight away, as I want you to start taking notes on things you find around you, and things you see in galleries over the year until September. (Again, if going to a gallery is a chore for you, is photography the option for you?)

If you choose to opt for Photography, I will give more specific advice about kit to individuals.

My email is dmurphy@beechencliff.org.uk



Photography – So why would you choose it?

- Any person who takes on the Photography 'A' level will enjoy the course, providing they have chosen it for the right reasons. Photography takes time, commitment and as you have seen, money, so only take the course on if you are serious about it.
- Are you interested in the media? Do you find yourself looking at photographs in newspapers, magazines or in galleries and feel inspired by them? If the answer to that question is yes, this course might be for you.
- Have you an interest in working as a Photographer, or working in TV or film?
- Are you artistically or creatively inclined?



A Level Photography Course – Syllabus

- ALL assessed work for the first year is coursework based. There is no exam until the end of the second year. This means that the first part of year one is dedicated to 'foundation' skills. Learning the techniques and craft of Photography, moving on to the main project work, the Personal Investigation after Easter of the first year. Any work done between September and Easter of the first year can be included in the Personal Investigation.
- 60% of the awarded grade is the Personal Investigation, 40% is the exam which commences in February of the second year.
- ALL STUDENTS now to have to show evidence of drawing, sketching and artistic experimentation in their sketchbooks. Sketchbooks are also used to record gallery visits, thoughts and experiences and techniques as they progress through the course. This is ongoing, and is a requirement of the exam board.



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Results - 2022

A*-A - 57%

A* - B - 85%

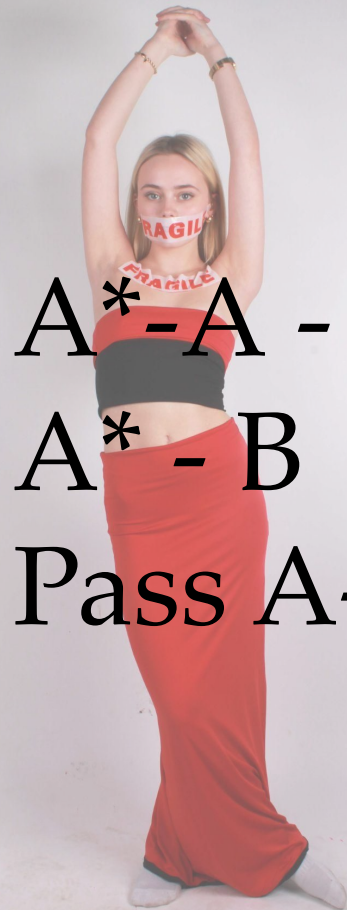
Pass A-D 100 %





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Results - 2023



A*-A - 44%

A* - B - 78%

Pass A-D 100 %



Aspiration

Compassion

Independence

Respect



Results - 2024

A*-A - 50 %

A* - B - 100 %

Pass A-C 100 %





Results - 2025

A*-A - 14 %

A* - B - 71 %

Pass A-C 100 %





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Ex Beechen Photography Students now professional Photographers/Video producers/creatives (that I know about!)

Dom Doering (Video/cinematography UK/USA)

Felicity Ingram (Professional fashion/beauty photographer, London)

Toby Hudson (Pro fashion photographer, Melbourne Australia)

Dave Bebbler (pro press photographer, winner of Press Photographer of the Year award 2010)

Valgas Moore (Photographer/video producer, Bath)

Ben Nordberg (Professional model, USA)

Joe Wiles (Professional lighting technician, London)

Toby Mitchell (Freelance Photographer Bath/Bristol)

Stephen Evans (Professional Photographer, Bath)

Tegan Rush (Exhibition team Ashmolean Museum, Oxford)

Hamish Kale (Marine and natural history photographer)

Charlie Sheppard (Graphic designer/art director, London)

Nick Holton (Wildlife photographer, winner of Australia Wildlife Photographer of the year 2023)

Anthony Prothero (Photography Lecturer, Falmouth University)

Stewart Swan (Professional Artist, Glasgow)

Jack Davis (Professional Artist, Cornwall)

Ralph Leming (Working for Helix film company, set designer)

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6th Form Photographers' impressions of the course..

I started the first year of Beechen Cliff Sixth Form not doing photography, with no previous experience in either art or photography. But after a quick chat with Mr Murphy I felt confident in joining a new class and doing something completely new. He helped me gradually learn the key techniques and skills needed for photography and then handed the reins over entirely to me where I was free to develop my own style and include artistic aspects as well.

Anna Digby

Photography has always been the most expressive and creative subject I have ever taken. I have currently been studying photography for almost 4 years (GCSE and A-Level) and have never had a dull lesson, whether I am experimenting with new techniques or perfecting an image in photoshop I always have something to do and I am always growing my skills in a fun and positively competitive environment.

Harvey Lofthouse



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6th Form Photographers' impressions of the course..

Coming into Beechen new in the middle of last year photography not being too great at my last school I was wary, and considering quitting the subject , but having chosen to go through with it I'm so glad I did, the class is interactive and fun you get given a scene of freedom, with the class following briefs but able to almost do as you please within the guidelines of the project. The projects are never boring and it gives you a chance to develop your skills with Mr Murphy and find your style as a photographer. I highly recommend to make photography one of your choices !

Gabe Goss

When I first started Beechen last year, I didn't have any previous experience in photography, only an Art GCSE. However this was irrelevant as Mr Murphy gave me all the support and guidance I needed. 2 weeks in, my confidence boosted as did my ability. Mr Murphy will support your ideas no matter how crazy they are (to an extent), and will always give constructive and positive feedback whether it is suggesting artists that may further develop your idea or simply helping you with a technical problem on your camera. Photography as a subject allows you to explore your own creative path and develop new skills. It also doesn't restrict you to a textbook unlike other subjects. Although photography is a lot of work, it is worth the creative and thrilling journey along the way.

Minna de Bagota



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6th Form Photographers' impressions of the course..

I chose photography because I really enjoyed the subject at GCSE and wanted to develop my skills further. Mr Murphy right from the start helped me with new ideas and understanding how to use the camera in a more advanced way. This was really helpful because it helped me increase my independence in photography and broaden my ideas. My favourite project in year 12 was the artistic project as it gave me the opportunity to be creative with photography and bring in techniques such as painting and sewing. Photography has been a great choice for me as it is really enjoyable and is different from my other essay based subjects. Overall I would really suggest taking photography as a subject if you like to be creative and try new things.

Esme Dyer

It's useful to have a subject that offers creative freedom in an academic environment that can be stressful at times. I like how photography is more than just an A Level subject – it has the power to connect people in a unique way that is hard to find in other disciplines. The support and guidance through the creative process is invaluable and this helps with personal development as well.

Tom Henly

I'm a year 13 photography student at beechen and it really allows me to relax myself 4 times a week whilst still being able to express myself and progress in a place of no judgment where everyone is akin in the belief that the photography classroom is a place where you can be yourself and express yourself through your work, while getting an A – Level simultaneously. If you're truly passionate about the subject, the course will be easy and will fly by before you've had the chance to appreciate it fully. The sense of freedom you have with your work is unprecedented in any other subject and the ability to flow freely from idea to idea truly allows you to experience, experiment and explore (in) yourself and your work. The teacher (Mr Murphy) is always available to give advice, praise and constructive criticism when it is necessary.

Tom Carpenter