

## GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY Curriculum Map

Autumn 1 & 2 – Year 11 PHOTOGRAPHY – OA-CAM	Spring 1 & 2 – Year 11 PHOTOGRAPHY – OA-CAM	Summer 1 – Year 11 PHOTOGRAPHY – OA-CAM
<p><b>Foundations &amp; Skills (Weeks 1–12)</b></p> <p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to photography: camera types, settings, exposure, focus, composition</li> <li>• Elements of art in photography: line, shape, form, colour, tone, texture</li> <li>• Composition techniques: rule of thirds, framing, perspective</li> <li>• Introduction to photo editing software (Photoshop, Lightroom, Snapseed etc.)</li> <li>• Begin contextual studies of photographers (portrait, landscape, documentary, abstract)</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical control of cameras and lighting</li> <li>• Observational skills: capturing detail and meaning in images</li> <li>• Research and note-taking skills in sketchbooks</li> </ul> <p><b>National Curriculum Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NC KS4: Develop creativity, experiment with media, record ideas, analyse creative works</li> <li>• Understand the context and influence of photographers and other artists</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical portfolio: 10–15 experimental images demonstrating composition, exposure, and editing</li> <li>• Sketchbook: 2–3 photographer studies with annotations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Term 2: Experimentation &amp; Personal Investigation (Weeks 13–24)</b></p> <p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploration of techniques: macro, abstract, long exposure, portrait, lighting</li> <li>• Independent mini-projects applying learned techniques</li> <li>• Extended contextual studies with analysis and comparison</li> <li>• Begin personal investigation (AO1 &amp; AO2): choose a theme, research, experiment, and develop ideas</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine technical skills in photography and digital editing</li> <li>• Experimentation and creative problem solving</li> <li>• Critical analysis and evaluation of work</li> </ul> <p><b>National Curriculum Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NC KS4: Experiment with materials, techniques, and processes</li> <li>• Record and reflect on ideas, developing informed responses</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portfolio: 20–25 images showing experimentation and progression</li> <li>• Annotated sketchbook: extended research and experimentation notes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Term 3: Refinement &amp; Exam Preparation (Weeks 25–36)</b></p> <p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection of best work for final outcomes</li> <li>• Refinement of personal investigation: print, digital presentation, or exhibition-ready pieces</li> <li>• AQA set assignment: 10 hours of preparatory work + 10-hour controlled exam</li> <li>• Final evaluation and self-reflection</li> </ul> <p><b>Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selection and refinement of work for personal, meaningful outcomes</li> <li>• Time management for controlled assessment</li> <li>• Evaluating strengths, weaknesses, and creative decisions</li> </ul> <p><b>National Curriculum Links</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NC KS4: Present personal and meaningful responses</li> <li>• Apply technical and creative skills to meet assessment objectives</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlled assignment submission (exam project)</li> <li>• Final portfolio: 30+ images with annotations and evaluations</li> </ul>