**A Level Film Studies**

**Overview**

Students can take Film Studies at A-Level even if you have not completed GCSE Film or Media Studies. All we ask is that you have a **genuine interest in film** and a competent level of literacy in order to manage the written demands of the course.

Film Studies A-level will involve watching, discussing and analysing a wide-range of film genres that aim to provoke thoughtful responses to their themes and contexts. We expect students to be able to verbally join in with discussions and express their opinions of film. Films hold a mirror up to society – we can sometimes see our own lives reflected in the characters on screen, other times the worlds are so vastly different to our own that film can teach us to be more empathetic towards others. The films studied on this course aim to challenge you in terms of their content; with themes such as racism, drug addiction and mental health being addressed.

The films we watch and enjoy today have been heavily influenced by early film practitioners – therefore we study films that have been made in different time periods; looking at the early developments of cinema, through to the Golden Age of Hollywood to the more modern and contemporary films of the 21st century.

**Course units and films studied:**

**Hollywood 1930-1990** – (*Some Like it Hot and One Flew over the Cuckoos Nest)*

**American film since 2005**- (*La La Land* and *Captain Fantastic)*

**British film since 1995** *- (Trainspotting* and *This is England)*

**Global film** – (*Pan’s Labyrinth* and *City of God*)

**Documentary film** – *(Amy)*

**Silent Cinema** – (*four Buster Keaton short films)*

**Experimental film** – (*Pulp Fiction)*

Film Studies A-Level can be used as a platform to a variety of creative and theoretical degree courses. Past students have gone onto universities such as Ravensbourne and Bournemouth, which are associated with their connections to the TV and Film industry, and pursued careers as film editors, producers, camera operators and script writers.

The course is **70% exam** and **30% practical coursework** - which will require students to film and edit their own short film.

**Bridging work:**

**Work to complete before starting the course**

* Tick off all the films that you have seen from ‘Film Four 100 Greatest Films list’ – aim to watch **at least three more** films from the list before Year 12 starts.
* Keep a record of some of the films that you are watching – use the **Film Diary** to record your opinions of the films. This should be brought to the first lesson of Year 12.

**Watch the following YouTube Videos:**

* ‘Crash Course in Film History’ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsnB4iBb78o&list=PL2vrmieg9tO3PwHdLO9_PC5zXIBglsWPE>
* Understanding camera shots - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7y0ouVBcogU&t=188s>
* Cinematic lighting techniques - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZ5hpcn6tIM>
* Editing: Cuts and transitions - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAH0MoAv2CI>
* Sound: See with your ears - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kavxsXhzD48>

These videos will be particularly important to watch if you haven’t taken Film or Media Studies at GCSE as they will help to familiarise you with important film language.