



Film Studies Curriculum

Overview

Film has been a huge part of our society for over a hundred years, from the first black & white silent films, to the latest films which employ the use of HD and 3D to bring a whole new dimension and experience to the world of film. Films can be viewed as works of art, as the writer and director share their ideas as a visual representation to audiences across the world, therefore sharing and expressing their views, or ideas, on the matter or topics raised within the film. We are well equipped with HD cameras and our own large green screen.

Some of our students go on to study Film at university to become a Director, Producer or Screenwriter. Others have gone straight into the industry at ground level and worked their way up.

Students doing AS and A2 Film Studies are taken on trips to the cinema e.g. IMAX, talks and workshops at the BFI (British Film Institute) and to experience the creative production involved in the making of the Harry Potter Films at *The Warner Brothers Tour* in North London.

Key Stage 3 & 4

Not applicable

Key Stage 5

We teach WJEC AS/A2 in Film Studies. The units covered offer students the opportunity to develop their creative and analytical skills. The full A-level course has four units in total. Alternatively, students, at the moment can choose to follow the course for just one year and gain an AS qualification made up of two units.

AS

Students receive a solid grounding in macro and micro elements, film history, producers and audiences. They do the following units:

Unit 1(FM1) 'Exploring Film Form'

Coursework: Writing a critical analysis of a film's micro elements; Making a short film, or writing a step outline (a type of shooting script) or photographing a storyboard.

Unit 2 (FM2) 'British and American Film'

Written exam: Answering questions on the Film Industry, Spectatorship, Hollywood and British Cinema. We also explore 60's British Cinema and American Road Movies.

A2

Students work on researching, analysing, discussing, presenting and writing about film. This will take the form of critical essays, viewing films and exploring the work of directors. They also make their own short films.





Unit 3 (FM3) 'Film Research and Creative Projects'

Students work independently on their coursework of 2 extended projects:

1. About a director, actor or producer of their choice, to present a script and speech included film clips as examples to the group;
2. Selected from screenwriting, documentary step outline or short film making.

Students also sit a written exam:

Unit 4 (FM4) 'Varieties of Film Experience: Issues and Debates'

This exam requires them to explore World Cinema and Critical Studies.

- A. "French New Wave" and the Danish "Dogma" group.
- B. Spectatorship and Emotional Response
- C. Spanish cinema: Pedro Almodovar's "Talk to Her."

Subject Leader: Ms Suzy McDonald

Department Website: drama.stwilfrids.com

Film Studies is delivered through the Drama department, as so many skills crossover such as acting to screen and directing