

# **Welcome to The Media Department**

GCSE Media combines all the benefits of a practical subject, in terms of teaching pupils about teamwork and giving them a range of hands-on skills, with a strong academic core that is taught in a way that makes it accessible to all abilities.

The department has teachers who are enthusiastic about the subject and experienced in the industry.

Mr Smedley [Teacher of English and Media]

Miss Soanes [Teacher of English and Media]

## **Key Stage Four (Years 10 and 11)**

- Year 10 students receive four hours teaching and Year 11 five hours teaching per fortnight
- Pupils follow the WJEC course in Creative Media
- The GCSE is currently going through a consultation period ready to be restructured from September 2017 (for students starting in Year 10). At present, 60% of the grade comes from coursework and 40% from a written examination.
- The examination paper has two sections: one involves analysing a media text and the other involves creating one using writing and/or drawing.
- The coursework consists of two written investigations, which can be presented in any format and the research, planning, creation and evaluation of a real media product.

## **Key Stage Five (Years 12 and 13)**

- There is one teaching group in each year, with interactivity between year groups encouraged.
- Teaching is divided between the two teachers in the department, with one teaching the exam and the other teaching/overseeing the coursework.
- Pupils follow the OCR course in Media.
- Coursework makes up 50% of the course for both AS and A2. The other 50% comes from the written examination.
- The A-Level is going through consultation and development, with a view to becoming a single A-Level, as with other subjects, rather than a discrete AS/A2. The DfE have made statements about the new curriculum, but exam boards are yet to confirm the syllabus. The cohort starting in September 2016 will be the last on the current syllabus.
- Coursework is all submitted via an online blog.

## Accommodation and Resources

The Media department is based in a purpose built media suite within the Sixth Form, although teaching for GCSE also takes place in one of the English classrooms, using portable ICT equipment. The media suite contains the following features:

- Powerful iMac computers for video editing and print media production, along with portable Macbooks.
- State-of-the-art digital film projector and blu-ray player.
- Interactive whiteboard
- A small library of films and books on the media, alongside a collection of textbooks.
- A soundproof booth and high quality microphones for the recording of music and voice.
- A full suite of design and editing software, including Final Cut Pro, iMovie, Abode Premier, Adobe After Effects, Photoshop and Garageband.
- A range of props and costumes.
- Good quality HD/Digital cameras and fluid-head tripods.
- Headphones and handheld voice recorders.

## Extra-Curricular Activity and Trips

Being a smaller than most departments, the Media Department nevertheless offers some exciting opportunities for extra-curricular activities:

- Working Title – Year 12s enjoy an annual trip to the offices of one of Britain's biggest and most well-known film production companies. Based in London, the company has produced films such as *Les Miserables*, *Rush* and recent Oscar-winning films *The Theory of Everything* and *The Danish Girl*. Students have the opportunity to attend an exclusive screening, meet the crew, learn about the stages of film production and interview a producer.
- Creative Futures – All years have the opportunity to go to this Media/ICT conference and workshop series at The Forum in Norwich. The first of these events was on 2015 and we are hoping it will be established as a biannual event. Last year, students were invited to question local television producer and *Look East* newscaster Katherine Nash.
- New York – a combined trip with the Social Sciences department, which is offered as an exciting opportunity to explore the world's 'most filmed city' and experience the media and culture of this unique place. This has been a biannual trip in the past, but increasing numbers of students may lead to it becoming more frequent. The current Year 12 cohort will be travelling in February half term 2017 and have paid around £900 for a trip including flights, transfers, hotels, all the essential excursions, subway travel and most meals.