

WJEC GCSE Film Studies Curriculum Intent

The new GCSE Film Studies specification is inspirational in a world where young people are more visual learners and offers a coherent and rigorous course of study therefore requires students to have good knowledge of film and have a good standard of literacy. It enables students to develop knowledge and understanding of:

- Exploration, and analysis of film
- The ways in which meanings and responses are generated through film
- A contrasting, culturally diverse range of films from different national contexts
- Film as an aesthetic medium
- The relationship between film and film technology over time
- How films reflect the social, cultural and political contexts in which they are made

A creative opportunity will be given for students to apply their knowledge and understanding of film to filmmaking and screenwriting. They will create a genre-based extract either from a film or from a screenplay.

GCSE students will be required to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of at least 6 critically recognised, culturally significant feature length films and the contexts in which they were made. The six films are selected from the following:

- At least two films produced within the US, at least one of which will be a Hollywood studio film produced between 1930 and 1960 and one will be an independent film.
- At least two English language films produced outside the US, at least one of which will be a British Film
- At least one non-English Film

Students will learn techniques and aspects of cinematography, elements of film and compare two of the set films in terms of context, narrative construction and the ways meanings and responses are generated. They will research and discuss major themes such as representations of gender, ethnicity, age and different cultures. They will explore key developments in film history as well as institutional information (how films are funded, footfall, how the level of production budget affects the kind of film made).

Through these films students will discuss and analyse social, moral, cultural and spiritual ideas, enjoy learning about themselves, others and the surrounding world, use their imagination creatively, appreciate the viewpoints of others on topical issues, recognise social boundaries and have a better understanding in their own lives.

During the study of their films students will develop their reading skills, stretch and challenge their ability to analyse different films, explore interviews, film sequences and instructional videos or film reviews on platforms such as you tube. They will need to write or type clearly with perception showing their knowledge of cinematography and elements of film comparing their views with those of others and specialist writing such as articles and film reviews.

Homework/Independent Learning is set in line with their learning in the lesson and reinforces the skills learnt that week. This encourages students to work independently and will prepare them to work on their own initiative academically and in employment.

Should any students struggle at any point early intervention is provided and strategies put in place to assist progress

In a world using multi-media students are encourage to communicate, do research and write in many different forms. ICT is embedded in the curriculum as well as using effective search tools on the internet. They will be encouraged to responsibly use IPADS, film on their mobile phones or cameras safely using equipment such as lighting and microphones and their preferred means of filming. They are encouraged to do this artistically from a choice of genre in a film sequence which builds tension inspired by their own studies. It will be important that students do this sensibly and sensitively as this will prepare them for safe use of the internet and cameras in the future.

Our students grow in confidence in their ability to communicate both verbally with each other and in groups as well as in their written work. Positive feedback and constructive advice will be given to encourage them to progress and improve their set targets. The course requires that they evaluate their own work critically and sensitively.

Should any students struggle at any point early intervention is provided and strategies put in place to assist progress.

Students studying GCSE Film Studies will gain confidence in communication skills, effective writing skills and analytical skills, experience in filming techniques, planning and writing screenplays and shooting scripts. They will pitch their film ideas and consider how to budget or look at production costs in filmmaking. They will be encouraged to work together as a team and assist each other in their practice productions. These skills will help them in a multi-media approach to learning in the modern world.

They can progress to A Level Film Studies as well as Further Education in Film. The skills learned will support their approach to many other subjects such as History and English as well as helping them have skills to succeed in other A Level subjects. Passing Film Studies GCSE will be a gateway to college and the many F.E. courses available to students such as BTEC and other vocational courses or even University.