



MEDIA STUDIES (A Level)

Examination Board

- OCR

- Please note: we are **NOT** offering this as an AS course but only as a two-year A2 course. At the end of Year 12, students will sit an internal exam on the work we have done during the year to monitor progress and help prepare for the exams at the end of Year 13.

A2 course background

- There is a nice 30/70 split between coursework and written examinations on this course so there is a lot of practical work to counterbalance the more academic elements of the course. The coursework involves creating a music video, as well as a band homepage and CD cover art. Work for this will begin in March of Year 12 but will not be submitted to the exam board until Year 13. The exams are designed to test a wide range of media concepts and look at newspapers and magazines, TV box sets, videogames, radio and music video. This is a new version of a very popular and successful course and is designed to offer students the opportunity to study a wide range of media forms from a global and historical perspective, but with a specific focus on how new technologies are allowing media industries to evolve. This is a well-respected course and many of our students have gone on to study media at a higher level or successful careers in the media.

Recommended study

- Students will be set work at their teacher's discretion, building up their skills in textual analysis. Normally, these will consist of short essays. We might suggest that students watch specific TV programs or films as part of their studies to help with class discussions. OCR encourages students to reflect on their extra-curricular media habits to illustrate wider points about the ways in which audiences are using new technologies to create and consume media texts.
- Health and Safety: We actively encourage students to film in interesting locations appropriate to the genre they choose to work in. However, it is not always possible for teachers to be present during filming, so it is important that students carefully consider potential hazards when they are filming off-site. Ideally, an adult should be present if any filming takes place off-site. If a teacher cannot be present, we will request that a parent or responsible adult supervises the filming.
- Technical resources: Cameras and editing equipment are provided at school. If students have editing facilities or cameras at home, they are free to use them as long as they can burn their work onto DVD. It is not vital for students to own their own cameras, but there are many affordable DSLR cameras on the market.
- We strongly encourage parents and carers to support students in pursuing their media interests, such as going to the cinema or live music events. Ask your child to discuss what they are learning. Give them feedback on their coursework and don't be afraid to be critical. I am always happy to address any concerns or issues you might have. The best way to contact me is on bzaidi@arthurmellows.org

