

# Media Studies

**Qualification:** A-Level Mathematics  
**Additional Entry Information:** Media Studies C desirable. Students who wish to study Media at A-level but have not studied it at GCSE are welcome on the course.

Speak to **Miss O Mills** for more information.

## **What do students need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

Pupils must have an interest in the Media. This should include film, television, the news, magazines, music and the impact of social media. Pupils need to have an awareness of how the media can mirror society as well as have an impact on social change. Pupils also need to have an interest in creating media texts themselves. Pupils will need to be able to work individually, work in groups as well as be able to voice opinions in class discussions. Pupils need to be aware that there is a heavy academic focus to this course and that much of the assessment process is through essay writing.

## **What will students learn on this course (skills and course content)?**

Pupils will learn how to use key terminology when exploring and analysing media texts. They will also learn key concepts such as how social groups, issues and events are represented in all media industries, how an audience is positioned/targeted by the media as well as debates focusing on ethical issues surrounding the media. They will also learn key theoretical perspectives relevant to different aspects of the media and how to apply these theories to their set texts. Pupils will also have the opportunity to create their own media texts in line with briefs set by the exam board.

## **What sort of student is this course suitable for?**

Pupils who take media studies need to have a strong interest in the media and be curious to explore how it helps shape the world around us. They need to enjoy watching films and television, take an interest in how they are made, appreciate the impact that music has on society and have a keen interest in both global and national news. Pupils need to communicate well in the way in they both write and speak. Pupils will respond to media texts both in essay form as well as in discussion and formal presentation. Pupils need be both analytical of media texts as well as creative when completing the production work. Media Studies is very suitable for pupils who are interested in, and experiment with, media processes such as photography, image manipulation, filming, creating online content and reviewing media products in their own time.

## **What kind of work will students need to be able to do outside of lessons?**

Pupils will need to expose themselves to the media on a daily basis and take a strong interest in the news. It would benefit pupils to have access to multiple platforms for accessing content, such as social media, streaming services (e.g. Netflix), internet, standard television channels etc. Pupils will also complete exam style essays as well as complete production work outside of lessons. Pupils need to be able to work independently and stick to deadlines over an extended coursework period.



## **What is the course content and how is this assessed?**

### AS

#### Unit 1 (Exam) 24%

- Section A Representation in Advertising and Music Videos
- Section B News in the Online Age
- Section C Film Industries: From Wales to Hollywood

#### Unit 2 (Production) 16%

Pupils will research, plan, create and evaluate their very own media production. This is assessed internally and moderated externally. Depending on the brief set, this will involve the use of technical programmes and equipment such as Photoshop

### A2

#### Unit 3 (Exam) 36%

- Section A Television in the Global Age
- Section B Magazines – Changing Representations
- Section C Video Games – Media in the Digital Age

#### Unit 4 (Production) 24%

A cross-media production, including individual investigative research and development, created in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts and digital convergence. An individual critical analysis of the production.

## **What could students go on to do at the end of this course?**

The media industry in Wales is thriving and many of our pupils look to gain work experience in the industry during their A-levels. Lots of our pupils continue studying the subject after completing the course; they study both Media Studies and Film studies at University or college locally and further afield. Pupils can also gain employment in the vast Media Industry and gain experience in media companies. The subject can also gain skills required for employment in careers such as marketing, journalism and theatre production among many. The academic and theoretical aspects of the course also make it suitable for going on to study other courses where these skills are required.