



King's Academy **Easthampstead Park**

It takes a whole community to raise a child.

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17 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Year 10/11 Photography GCSE Equipment Guidance

We are extremely pleased that your child has chosen to study GCSE Photography at KAEP. We are a well equipped department with a large studio, studio lights, Photoshop on every PC in the classroom, a darkroom and a number of Canon DSLRs. We have everything your child should need to access the course in school hours, and as long as they have access to a smart phone with a working camera, they should also be able to access all the homework tasks in Year 10 and the majority in Year 11. As suggested at options evening, your child will have a better opportunity to achieve a higher final grade if they have access to a camera outside of lessons so they can expand their portfolio in response to tasks set.

Purchasing a digital camera can be a minefield of decisions so I am writing to you now to try and alleviate some of that pressure. In order to be successful in this GCSE students are required to control a camera in manual mode to enable understanding of composition and exposure. To this end it is advisable that a camera should have manual exposure, focusing and focal-length controls. This would omit the purchase of a compact 'point-and-shoot' camera which would not have these functions. I am acutely aware of the current financial challenges facing families and this letter is for those who might appreciate the guidance rather than an instruction to go out and buy a camera in these difficult times.

A 'Bridge' or 'DSLR' camera is a far better choice of equipment. Canon, Nikon, Sony and Panasonic all make a selection of 'Bridge' cameras within a £150-£300 price range and Amazon has a wide selection of these for you to view. My personal choice for a 'Bridge' type camera would be the Panasonic Lumix DMC-TZ70EB-S:

[Panasonic LUMIX DMC-TZ70EB-K 30x70 Super Zoom Camera - Black: Amazon.co.uk: Electronics & Photo](https://www.amazon.co.uk/panasonic-lumix-dmc-tz70eb-k-30x70-super-zoom-camera-black/dp/B08L5K3K3K)

This is a compact but has manual exposure and focus controls and is fitted with an excellent Leica lens.

A 'DSLR' (Digital Single Lens Reflex) camera will offer a far greater range of use and creativity, especially into Year 11 and beyond. We use Canon DSLR cameras in school and I always suggest students (if they can) should invest in this platform to build on camera operation they learn in school. There is absolutely nothing wrong with other camera platforms such as Nikon, Sony or Pentax, but I used Canon professionally and believe it is still the most intuitive and effective brand. An entry level Canon/Nikon/Sony DSLR will have all the functionality students will need over the length of the course:

- Manual exposure control
- Interchangeable lenses
- White balance control
- User friendly controls

Here is an example of an entry level Canon DSLR:

[Canon EOS 4000D DSLR Camera and EF-S 18-55 mm f/3.5-5.6 III Lens - Black: Amazon.co.uk: Electronics & Photo](https://www.amazon.co.uk/canon-eos-4000d-dslr-camera-and-ef-s-18-55-mm-f3.5-5.6-iii-lens-black/dp/B078888888)



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There is also the option of buying second hand, or reconditioned cameras via Amazon, Ebay or Facebook marketplace. If you would prefer buying guaranteed second hand equipment I would suggest looking at the following companies:

[Ffordes Photographic | For Purchase and sales of all Major Photographic equipment, world wide.](#)

[Professional Camera, Lens and Lighting Repairs \(fixationuk.com\)](#)

[Wex Photo Video | Digital Cameras, DSLRs, Lenses, Video | Wex Photo Video](#)

If investing in a camera there are also other ancillary items which would also be useful as the course progresses:

- A card reader [USB 3.0 Card Reader,Beikell High-speed SD/Micro SD Card Reader Memory Card Adapter-Supports SD/Micro SD/TF/SDHC/SDXC/MMC-Compatible with Windows,OS : Amazon.co.uk: Computers & Accessories](#)
- Tripod
- Camera bag

As previously stated, the purchase of a camera is **not compulsory** for GCSE and students are fully supported in school with all relevant equipment. It is highly advised that students taking the subject at A level do have their own camera due to the degree of shooting required outside of lesson time. If students do have their own camera, they are invited to bring it in for practical lessons where they will be the only operator. For peace of mind, cameras are locked in my office at the start of the day, used in lessons, then collected at the end of the day. I do hope this information is useful to those parents and carers who are considering the investment in a camera for their child.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Proctor
Head of Design