



Cambridge Technical Level 3 In Digital Media

Examination Board

- OCR
- Please note: this Cambridge Technicals course is offered as an Extended Certificate (1 A Level equivalent). It is highly regarded by employers and universities. All Digital Media students will be required to attend 12 core lessons per fortnight.

Course background

- There is a lovely 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 tasks range from creating short films and/ or music videos to creating soundtracks for audio-visual media, creating special effects and learning how to script and pitch media products to producers.
- The 2 exams are based on pre-production skills and investigating the ways in which media products are produced, marketed and distributed to specific audiences. This is a relatively new and very popular course which has been designed to offer students the opportunity to study and create a wide range of media forms from, but with specific focus on new technologies and the development of practical skills and independent learning.
- It is normal for the groups to consist of a mix of students who are new to the subject and those who have studied it as a Key Stage 4 course. Enthusiasm and a strong interest in popular culture is at least as important as prior learning.

Recommended study

- Students will be set work at their teacher's discretion. Normally, these will consist of short pieces of writing or audio-visual presentations. 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 media habits to illustrate wider points about the ways in which audiences are using new technologies to consume media texts.
- Health and Safety: We actively encourage students to film in interesting locations outside the college as appropriate to the genre they choose to work in. It is not however, 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. Considering potential hazards and completing and following a risk assessment is a key part of the course.
- 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 access their work at school. 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. Pursuing an active interest in the media will provide useful case studies and examples for use in exams and as stimulus for their own creative work. Ask your child to discuss what they are learning. Give them feedback on their work and don't be afraid to be critical. I am always happy to address any concerns or issues you might have if you contact me at the College.

