

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Media and Film Studies are popular and highly successful subjects at this college with approx 450 students studying for A levels in these subjects (EDUQAS exam specifications). The subjects are taught by a team of six teachers with a background in Media, Film or Cultural Studies (F/T and P/T). One member of the team is the Principal Examiner for Eduqas A level Component 2 Media studies and is co-author of the Media studies course textbook and the Head of Media Studies is the Assistant Principal for Eduqas Component 1. Other members of the team offer activities such as film-making and deliver a range of practical and support subject workshops. In both subjects the team works together on the development of shared google classroom resources, each colleague taking responsibility for one or more A level case study, which is updated throughout the year and supported by guidance notes made available to the whole team. Practical production, which is worth 30% of both qualifications, takes place in a dedicated DTP room (23 PCs) and edit suite (24 PCs).

Practical work within both departments is supported by a team of three Media Instructors who provide camera and editing training for all students and staff. The TV studio, green screen & gallery in Freeman is used by students in a variety of ways to enhance production work. Training and provision of the 'green screen' has enhanced student's creative processes in coursework and specialist training is delivered throughout the year to support students in production and post-production techniques. Equipment in the department (DSLRs, tripods, rigs, LED lights, sliders etc) is rotated between Media A level, Film A level, Level 2 Media and Level 3 Digital Media - there is a large practical component to all six courses each of which work to a very tight 'coursework carousel' managed via google calendar and the *itemit* booking system. This year the department has invested in more DSLR cameras and specialist lenses to ensure that the training our students receive remains industry relevant and produces the highest quality outcomes. Every year the best student production work is celebrated at the Media and Film Oscars evening and some work is entered into and often wins local film festivals.

In Media Studies Year 1, students are introduced to some of the main critical approaches in the subject, developing an understanding of how media texts convey their messages and meanings, as well as considering debates regarding media representations and audience response. They do this through the analysis of a wide range of media forms including video games, film trailers, TV, magazines, newspapers, radio and music videos. In Year 2, students study a broader range of texts, including examples produced outside of the commercial mainstream such as *Huck* magazine and *Rip Tide* by Vance Joy, as well as looking at more advanced critical theories such as Postmodernism, Post-colonialism and Feminism. Students also apply knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework and digital convergence to the planning and production of a cross-media production (music video and music magazine). In order to prepare them for this, our students have extensive DSLR camera, studio and editing training where they learn advanced camera and post-production techniques.

In Level 2 Media, close to 100 learners develop both theoretical understanding and practical skills in the media industry. The CTEC combines a mandatory unit on analysing media products and audiences with a range of optional units (such as audio-visual production and print media), allowing learners to specialise while gaining hands-on experience in planning, creating, and evaluating media products. The course is coursework-based and focuses on real-world production processes, from initial ideas through to editing and final presentation, making it more practical than traditional exam-focused qualifications. The Level 2 course is a supplementary course running alongside English and Maths GCSE retakes, preparing students for further vocational study at PSC such as our highly successful CTEC Level 3 qualification in Digital Media.

Jennifer Barfield
Head of Media
May 2026