

John

Milton 6

@Stowupland High School

Welcome to A level Media Studies

Mrs J Macey - Subject Leader for English and Media Studies



Why Study Media Studies

Studying Media Studies gives you the opportunity to study a course that is contemporary, academic and creative. You will be studying the media in an academic context and applying your knowledge and understanding to produce your own media productions. The course will foster your critical thinking skills, whilst thoroughly encouraging you to engage in critical debates surrounding contemporary media. You will have to be creative with an enthusiasm for all aspects of the media: print, moving image and new media such as webpages and social media pages. The course will inspire you to learn and research the role of the media and its place within our society, whether it be historically, politically, culturally or economically.

We study the AQA exam board
syllabus for Media Studies A level

What is the course like?

The course is a linear one. There are two final exams at the end of Year 13. These exams assess your understanding of the media forms, concepts, frameworks, issues and debates you have studied during the course. They are each worth 35% of your whole A level qualification.

You also create two linked media productions of your own from a set of new production briefs which AQA release each year. These production briefs might include creating magazine pages, a music video, a segment of a radio programme, the title sequence for a new TV series, social media content including viral advertising, webpages etc. This NEA is worth 30%.

What will I study?

For the two exams and, in preparation for choosing your production briefs, you will study a wide range of different media forms such as music videos, websites, adverts, TV programmes, magazines, video games and radio.

Within these media forms we study specific texts in depth as key examples of the different forms.

What will I study?

Current specified texts include the TV programme 'The Missing', the magazine 'Men's Health', the video game 'SIMS Freeplay,' the website 'Teen Vogue' and the music video for Common's 'Letter to the Free.'



What are lessons like?

In lessons we study, discuss and analyse the specific media texts and forms. Discussion of ideas is central to all lessons. We try to include lots of pair and group work as well as opportunities for whole class discussion and individual research.

As well as the specific media products, we consider wider media issues and debates such as how representation of gender and ethnicity has changed over the last 40 years, the impact of the internet on media consumption and whether audiences are influenced by what they see and read.

What other subjects complement Media Studies A level

- English Language
- English Literature
- IT or Computing
- Art and Design
- Drama
- Music
- Politics
- Sociology
- Psychology
- History
- Business

Further study or possible future career paths

- Media Studies
- Media Production
- Business studies/management
- Journalism, social media, public relations
- IT/website design/game design
- Art and Design
- Other degree courses or careers requiring both strong communication and analytical skills and creativity

What skills do I need?

- An interest in different media forms and how they are created
- An interest in why and how the media is constantly changing and evolving
- An interest in how the media represents individuals or groups of people and how these might be manipulated
- Good literacy skills
- Media production skills - moving image, website design, photography, use of programs like Publisher.
- Ability to debate complex issues without a clear right or wrong answer
- Analytical and evaluative skills

Questions or more information

For further information or to ask specific questions, please speak to me, Mr Young or Miss Curtis at school.

There is more information on the course available in the Sixth Form Prospectus.