



Why study Film Studies at Formby High School?

Many consider film to be the main cultural innovation of the 20th century and a major art form of the last hundred years. Film Studies offers students the opportunity to investigate how film works in representing the world we live in and understand the creativity and imagination by which this is achieved.

Film Studies is a vibrant, absorbing subject that will change the way you look at this cornerstone of popular culture forever!

What does the course involve?

The course involves the study of mainstream and independent American and British films from the past and the present as well as more recent global films, both non-English language and English language. The historical range represented in those films is extended by the study of silent movies and significant film movements so that students can track the development of film from its early years to the present day and beyond. Studies in documentary, experimental and short films add to the breadth of the learning experience. Studying a diverse range of films gives the opportunity to apply knowledge and understanding of how films are constructed to a student's own filmmaking and screenwriting.

At the end of the course students will sit two external assessments and complete one coursework assignment. The first examination will focus on US and British film with reference to Hollywood movies old and new (Apocalypse Now and Selma for example) and UK films like 'This is England'. The second examination will explore the diversity of the global film industry where there is a focus on European and World Cinema, such as Pan's Labyrinth, documentary ('Amy', about the life of the singer) as well as significant film movements. Coursework will be of a creative nature and involve the production of a screenplay and storyboard, which is worth 30% of the grade. Students therefore need to have a keen interest in film, be resourceful and open to new ideas and ways of thinking.

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Film studies is such an amazing subject! From the start of every lesson it is so clear that the teachers have a true passion for what they teach; this enthusiasm has pushed my determination to learn more and widen my scope of film knowledge. Students study so many interesting films from different cultures, time periods including foreign, experimental and main stream films. What I enjoy the most is the ability to understand films on a deeper level, From the mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, lighting and editing to the deeper meanings behind scenes. One component I have become extremely fond of studying is the documentary unit. It opened my eyes to other people's stories and perspectives, seeing how the director has managed to capture these moments and process them for education and entertainment purposes. I adore Film Studies and I hope that other students come to love it as much as I do.

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Rowenna chose to stay at Formby High School for Sixth Form

What can the qualification lead to?

The study of film can of course lead to a career or further research in the media. The skills of analysis, creativity and production can be applied to a variety of other areas such as Business, Management, English, Public Relations, Human Resources and Media Studies.

What are the entry requirements?

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Which other subjects complement Film Studies?

- English
- Digital Media
- Music
- Music Technology
- Performing Arts
- Theatre Studies

