



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.

“Since the moment I started studying Film Studies A Level, I was lost as to why not every college and sixth form offered this subject. Students are granted access to a world of creative meaning and intelligence, unique to this subject because of its versatility. From documentary to global cinema, students discover the importance of cinematography, mise en scène and much more. I am most excited to curate a short script as part of the coursework where I can express my creativity and use my newly developed skills and interests. We are lucky to have such passionate teachers within the department who enrich our learning and inspire confidence throughout the course. The depth and challenge yet enjoyability of the subject would confirm any student's desire to have a career in film. The best advice I can give, as a student going on to pursue film at university, is that any student considering Formby High's Sixth Form is fortunate to be offered a chance to study this subject as it provides the opportunity to choose a subject that transforms a hobby into a serious passion.”

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



Imogen chose to stay at Formby High School for Sixth Form