**Talking about your photographs…**

All of your work should have a **brief explanation**. You do not need to write about every photograph, and you should **NOT write pages and pages**! However you should include the following for each task:

* **What was the task: what skills did you develop and how did you apply them?**
* **If we linked to a photographer: which photographer inspired you and how?**
* **Explain the photography techniques: which formal elements, camera settings, and editing techniques did you use? How and why?**
* **Reflect on the strengths: what works well and why?**
* **Suggest ways of improving: what would you do differently next time? How would the photo improve as a result?**

**Key Words**

**Camera settings**

Macro, fast or slow shutter speed, zoom, focus, panoramic,

**Ways of taking a photograph**

Digital (DSLR), traditional (SLR), wet film photography, darkroom, pinhole, photogram, Tripod, flash, light reader

**Formal elements**

Shape, Texture (natural or man made), Pattern (natural or man made, Line, Tone (shadows), Lighting (see highlights on something, eg. shine), Colour (Bright, dull, contrasting, monotone), Composition (centred, off centre, to the side of the photo), viewpoint, Framing (line up edges of photo with edges of subject)

**Viewpoints**

Distance, perspective, angles, distorted, birds eye, aerial, forced perspective, illusion, close up, macro

**Photoshop**

Brightness, contrast, hue and saturation, layers, filters, curves, colour splash, de-saturate, crop, select, magic wand tool, levels, erase, alter, manipulate, enhance, change, develop, correct

**Darkroom process**

Aperture, enlarger, exposure timing, negatives, developer, stop bath, fixer, wash, under exposed, over exposed, focus, blur

**Portraiture**

Traditional, environmental, candid, lifestyle, surreal, conceptual, abstract, emotion, mood, facial expression, eye contact, gaze, pose, position, interaction, engaging the viewer, character, close up, full length, head shot

**Researching photographers…**

You will regularly have to **carry out independent research** into photography techniques, styles or specific artists and photographers. To ensure that you are successful, use the following to help you:

* Find a **photographer that inspires you**. Select the photo that gives you the most ideas and print it out ready to present in your book. Write down the name of the photographer and if you can find it, make note of the title of the image.
* See if the photographer says anything about their **style, influences or photography technique** – if they do, print this to help you later.
* **Analyse** don’t describe. Use some of these questions to help you, and always use key words to achieve merit or above:
* **How has the photographer taken the photo?**
* **What camera settings and photography techniques have they used?**
* **What formal elements have they used and how?**
* **What effect does this have on the image?**
* **Have they edited the photo?**
* **How does this affect the way you view it?**
* **What do you like about it? Be specific and explain your answer.**
* **How does this photograph give you ideas for your own work? How will you take inspiration from this photographer?**
* Always **create your own version** of photographers work where possible as this is the best way to demonstrate an understanding of their technique. **Don’t just copy though**, make it your own in some way in order to get the higher marks.