

Journalism NPA

Overview:

The Journalism (SCQF level 6) NPA has at its heart the journalistic activity of research and writing but, in line with the many outlets for modern journalism, has options to develop content in page layout, web development and photography.

Creative media production is an ideal base for the development of a wide range of Core Skills especially in:

- Communication
- Information technology
- Problem solving
- Working with others

The NPA allows pupils to work together in teams and develop new transferrable skills. New technical skills are framed within a creative approach to learning and media production where the importance of problem solving and improving self-confidence is recognised.

This course reflects the Curriculum for Excellence commitment to the development of skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. Media production activity, with its requirement for team working, adherence to deadlines, working within available resources and a creative approach to problem solving, is well suited to the development of a successful and determined workforce. The freelance nature of employment opportunities within the media highlights self-reliance and entrepreneurial opportunity.

Assessment

The course is all internally assessed. Pupils will study the following units:

- Feature Writing
- Photography
- Research and Interview Skills
- Website Design

For each unit, students will follow a similar step by step progression.

First, we will look at a range of examples of existing good practice in each area of journalism and candidates will be able to comment on the factors and ingredients of this good practice thereby explaining how the nuts and bolts work in each area covered in the units. For example, we will look at different types of interviews and interview skills; primary and secondary research and how they are used; different types of feature writing; the various tools and features of a range of websites; and common aspects of photography such as lighting and composition.

Secondly, students will use this understanding achieved in Outcome 1 to start to plan and develop their own ideas for each unit. For example, they will choose an interviewee and create questions based on primary and secondary research; they will create a detailed plan to produce a feature article; they will design a website for a particular brief; and they will discuss the various requirements necessary to produce a range of photographs.

And finally, the Journalism candidates will produce their own examples for each unit, based on what they learned from others in Outcome 1 and their planning and development in Outcome 2. So, they will conduct primary and secondary research, and interview someone for a specific purpose; they will write a feature article; they will create a website; and they will produce a range of photographs. For each unit, as with all the other outcomes, the students will write an accompanying commentary explaining their process and decisions made along the way.

All work is collated into a course folder that is internally assessed and moderated by the SQA.

How can parents help?

Pupils are expected to submit a number of course assessments. These will need to be word processed. Pupils will be expected to work on these in lessons and at home.

Pupils will also be expected to work in groups on practical tasks and commit time out of school hours.

Success at NPA Journalism:

A high level of commitment is required of all pupils and they will be expected to:

- Complete all home learning and meet regular deadlines for submission of work.
- Generate work of a suitable standard and quality.
- Re-draft work as needed.
- Attend all classes.
- Work independently.