

## Y9 Options: GCSE Film Studies FAQs

- **What is studied in GCSE Film?**

Briefly, six films in detail, along with the planning and writing skills to create a screenplay, shooting script and evaluative analysis.

- **Which films do you study?**

- Invasion of the Body Snatchers (Siegel, USA, 1956), PG
- E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (Spielberg, USA, 1982), U
- The Hurt Locker (Bigelow, USA, 2008), 15
- District 9 (Blomkamp, South Africa, 2009), 15
- Let the Right One In (Alfredson, Sweden, 2008), 15
- Submarine (Ayoade, UK, 2010), 15

All these films are covered in the course textbook, issued in Year 10.

- **Some of those films are 15 certificates; is that ok?**

As long as you're ok with it, yes. There's no legal problem with using 15 certificate films for educational purposes at GCSE; when preparing for the screenplay NEA, we will use clips from other films, some of which will also be rated 15, but we will not use anything rated 18. We will ask you to sign consent for your child to watch 15 certificate films in class; when students are doing research for the screenplay, it is up to you what they watch at home, and we expect them to discuss this with you.

If you're not comfortable with 15 certificate films being studied, then Film Studies would not be the right option choice.

- **How will the students watch these films? Should we buy copies?**

As watching films takes up some time, we run a screening programme after school: this currently happens on Thursdays, but can be arranged according to students' other commitments. We do expect attendance at these sessions; again, we will ask you to sign consent for this. It would certainly be very helpful for you to have your own copies of the film; however, we do not expect you to purchase them, as we have spare DVDs to loan.

- **For the NEA, will they get to make their own films?**

Partly because of the current restrictions, we have taken the decision that all students will be writing screenplays, in Year 10. Some students will be keen to film their screenplays, and we will support them with this. We hope that it will once again be possible to run Cineclub after school next year; we would expect potential film-makers to attend.

- **How is the GCSE course assessed?**

There are two 90-minute exam papers, each worth 35% of the qualification. All six films are examined in multi-part questions, with short answers as well as longer essays. The screenplay writing NEA makes up the remaining 30%.

A good source of information is the eduqas website where you can look at past papers: <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse>.

- **Does the course lead to further study and employment?**

GCSE Film clearly gives an excellent grounding for A Level Film Studies, as well as for Media Studies, and many students continue with the Department in the Sixth Form, in some cases studying both. We have many alumni reading Film, and Media, at university, and some have gone on to careers in the industry.

- **Who should I get in touch with to find out more?**

Glyn Evans, Subject Leader for Film and Media Studies ([gevans@stbarts.co.uk](mailto:gevans@stbarts.co.uk)).