

## Why is Media Important?

We are surrounded by and use media products all the time. Understanding how they are made, what effects they have on us, and learning how to make our own are essential skills for all of us, not just those who are looking to make a career in the industry.

An increasing amount of the media produced by our students is generally available outside school. We run a YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/williamhbroadcast> and student games are available for Android devices on the Google Play Store at

<https://play.google.com/store/search?q=whsgames&hl=en>.

We also try to link our video production work to the local community wherever possible. Students have worked to create material for a large number of local charities, made films for the police and Tullie House, and produced adverts for McVitie's and Heskett Newmarket Brewery.



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## The Department

The Media Department at WHS has three members of staff based in a specialist block in the heart of the school. Classrooms are equipped with smart boards, widescreen projectors and a substantial number of specialist computers running professional media software. The block contains a dedicated TV studio with control gallery, vision mixer and lighting and sound equipment, and there is also a significant amount of additional specialist equipment for audio visual recording. We teach video production, TV production, photography and video games development. We also support students to explore a range of skills independently through the Extended Project qualification.

Mr Booth is the Curriculum Leader and teaches all the video games courses and A Level theory. Mrs Gregory teaches all the video, film and TV courses and A Level coursework. Mr Sweeney is our technician and teaching assistant who also works professionally in video production.

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## Key Stage 4

We offer 2 KS4 courses:

- **Video Production:** covering planning, shooting and editing film as well as how to create publicity materials for their final products.
- **Games Development:** covering how to make 2D games and the graphics that go in them as well as how to create publicity materials for their final products.

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## Key Stage 5

We offer 5 KS 5 courses:

- **Games Development:** covering game design and creation.
- **Broadcast and Studio:** a double option course covering a wide range of media production including TV, video production and photography, and ideal for students wanting to pursue a career in media production.

- **Media Studies:** an academic A Level combining analysis of TV texts and study of the UK film industry with film production.
  - **Extended Project:** a shorter course open to Media and non-Media students where they develop independent research and time management skills to learn how to develop their skills in an area of their choice.
  - **Foundation Learning Tier:** an introductory Media course aimed mainly at students in the sixth form with learning disabilities.
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## Learning Outside the Classroom

The department runs a Gaming Club, for students to play a range of console and PC games, and is developing a radio station which will be run by students.