

Bridging Resources for
Year 11 Applicants:

MEDIA STUDIES



St John Rigby College

Media Studies

In Media, you will study a range of print and audio-visual products, including advertising, television, radio, film, newspapers and magazines, games and online media. The tasks below focus on some of these media types to give you some knowledge of them before beginning the course.

We also have an **online learning area** with lots of fun and interesting tasks. If you would like access to this, please email us for login information.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the course, please do get in touch!

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Music Video

From its beginnings, music video has been an innovative and experimental form. Many a successful film director has either made their name as a music video director or still uses the form to experiment with editing, photography and post production effects.

Watch the following two videos by British film directors: Radiohead's "Street Spirit" (Jonathan Glazer 1995) and FKA Twigs' "tw-ache" (Tom Beard 2014).



- What are your thoughts about both videos? In what ways might they be seen as experimental (as well as weird, intriguing and exciting)?
- How do they create an impact? How do they complement or challenge the music?
- Who is the target audience for each video? (It can be useful to read the comments on YouTube to get a sense of people's reactions to them, but don't do this if you're sensitive to bad language!)
- Is there anything distinctly British about either or both of them?

Comparing a director's video and film output

Jonathan Glazer directed Radiohead's "Street Spirit" just a few years before directing his first feature, the brilliant *Sexy Beast* (2000), starring Ben Kingsley and Ray Winstone.

He is widely praised for his film work. But is his music video work also worthy of artistic recognition?

- Watch the following videos and trailers by Glazer:
 - Video for UNKLE's "Rabbit In Your Headlights"
 - Trailer for *Sexy Beast* (2000)
 - Trailer for *Under the Skin* (2013)
- What connections can you find behind Glazer's music videos and his feature films? You should think about:
 - Recurring motifs and images
 - Use of cuts and particular shots
 - Use of sound (is there any sound in the videos beyond the music itself, for example?)
 - Use of colour
 - Use of special effects



Further research

Do some research into the history of British music video – there's lots of material online. Did it really all start with Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" in 1975?

Genre, Character and Narrative

Exploring genre

- Choose a TV drama you enjoy or one you're interested in and watch the first episode.
- As you're watching, make a list of all of the genres that might be applicable to the episode. For example, if you're studying *Stranger Things* you might have sci-fi, high school, action, adventure, buddy movie, romance, to name but a few.
- Mind map as many of the conventions of the different genres as you can think of. You should end up with a pretty big list of tropes, conventions, typical images, characters etc.



Characterisation

- Choose a character from the show you analysed and decide which of the features of all the different genres apply to them in your set episode. For example, Steve from *Stranger Things* predominantly exists within the romance or high school movie genre- we see him flirting by the lockers, sneaking in through the window of his girlfriend's house after dark, kissing in the toilets, he has 'cool' hair and the latest fashions, all tropes of many high school related films and TV shows.
- Sometimes in long form TV dramas, characters often seem one dimensional in the first episode and adhere more strictly to a set of genre expectations. However, as characters develop, or as the plot evolves, the use of genre is more dynamic and hybridity increases. Steve eventually gets sucked into the narrative of Mike, Eleven and the gang and becomes more like an older brother character in an action adventure movie.
- If you are familiar with subsequent episodes of your chosen show, think about how your character develops over time. Do their characteristics move beyond simply genre conventions, or do they stay the same?

Narrative

- You can also use genre repertoires to analyse key scenes from your TV drama episode to understand how genre and narrative interlink.
- Look at a 'status quo' moment, where the scene is being set and characters are being introduced and compare it with a moment of disruption or a dramatic climax, then go back to your genre mind map from the first task.
- Are the creators using genre conventions to signpost events in the plots or to heighten the drama or give viewers a false sense of security?



COMPETITION

Why not get creative by entering the Into Film "Film of the Month" competition?

The competition is open to young people in the UK, up to the age of 19.

There is no restriction on genre or theme, and Into Film provide guides on all aspects of the production process, so that even the most inexperienced filmmaker can feel confident in submitting an entry.

Entries are judged by Into Film staff, and guest judges, and are assessed on the idea, sound, story and look, as well as the technical ability on display.

For further details, visit: <https://www.intofilm.org/competitions/1>

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