**Year 11 Bridging project**

Firstly, congratulations on making a superb choice in selecting Media as one of your post 16 subjects. Truly Inspired!!

As a way of getting a good head start into next year I would like you to look at a film genre of your choice, spend a little bit of time looking at some films from that genre and then develop an idea or indeed a range of ideas for a film of your own from that genre.

What is a Film Genre?

In simple terms a Film Genre is just a simple way of lumping together a group of films that are similar this will be in terms of the story, how they look the emotional reaction they create in the audience. For example a horror may make us scared, a comedy may makes us laugh a romance may makes us cry and smile.

When we think about film genre and film making in general there are some key elements that a film maker has to work with. They are camera angles, sound, light and something called mise en scene (the background, location, costume). This is known as codes and conventions. When you start to look at different film genres you will quickly realise that some of key scenes and how they are filmed will change dependent on the genre. For example within an action film the classic scene is a chase, but how do we film a chase? Obviously, this varies dependent on the type of chase and the location. However, there are some elements that typically characterise an action film chase, the sound will often be high tempo to generate a sense of excitement, the pace of edit (how quickly we change from one camera shot to another will also be fast often to the beat of the music) these two simple techniques generate excitement, suspense. This may contrast to a romantic love scene where two people finally meet, here the music will be slower, the camera shots may last longer to allow the audience see the emotion of the characters, the use of light and location may also be inspiring again to make the audience feel that this is indeed that magical moment we all wanted.

Your challenge then should you choose to accept is as follows:-

1. Look at a type of film you are either familiar with, enjoy or are interested in. Research using different websites (a simple google search will reveal a vast array of different sources of information). Having read about the genre write a short half page description of that type of film. What are its characteristics? What are the codes and conventions of that genre?
2. Select some examples of your genre and specifically look at the key scenes i.e. the chase, the meeting, the scary moment in the horror how are the key elements used to create that moment.
3. Develop an idea for a film that follows the basic principles of the genre you have been looking. This doesn’t need to be a full blown script and storyboard just a brief outline, perhaps just one or two paragraphs.
4. From your idea, think of a key scene you would have and discuss how you would film it. The camera shots, the light, sound location. Again this only needs to be a couple of paragraphs long. Think quality rather than quality!!
5. As an extension task you may want to have a go at filming a small part of this scene. You need only use your phone to do this it doesn’t have to be the actual scene but an exploration of how you use light or the camera angles etc.

Good luck and enjoy yourself. While media does require a commitment and a focus it should also be enjoyable, so pick wisely in your choice of genre, don’t fall into the obvious gender specific film choices, just because you are a young guy you don’t have to pick a gangster or action film be brave there are many great films out there that have the power to inspire and move us.

I look forward to seeing what you have developed in September. If you have any questions please don’t hesitate to contact me on astraiton@englishmartyrs.org