Widening Participation

PHOTOGRAPHING
E-FOLIO IMAGES
WITH A SMARTPHONE
For 2D work, place your image on a flat surface, on top of a large piece of white paper, as near to a natural light source as possible (e.g. window, open door etc). Avoid placing your work in direct sunlight. In winter, make sure you are taking your pictures during the brightest daylight hours.
To make sure the shape of your piece of work isn’t distorted in the photo, your smartphone needs to be in a straight, parallel angle to it. Your smartphone should be as close to the piece of work as possible, without cropping out the edges. Hold the phone as steady as possible to avoid blur.
Example of badly taken shot

- Not shot in natural daylight
- Paper looks yellow
- Dark unlit area
- Unwanted background visible in shot
- Work placed on non-flat, non-white surface
- Flash shouldn't be used
- Creates light spots
- Curled corner
- Shot taken from wrong angle
- Distorts the shape of the page

Example of well taken shot

- Work shot on top of plain white paper
- No background visible
- Shot in natural daylight
- No flash spots or yellow tint to paper
- Shot taken from central straight angle
- No distortion of shape of work
For 3D work, create a clean background with a sheet of plain paper, curved and attached to something upright (e.g. a chair). Position the setup as near to your natural light source as possible. Your smartphone should be close to the piece of work without cropping any of it.
Make sure your background sheet is big enough to block out everything around your object and give you a clean image. Then take the opportunity to try re-shoot your object from different angles, and experiment with close-up shots of certain sections of it.