DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT   DESIGN
A LEVEL

What are the aims of the course?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a wide range of careers, especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

What does it involve?

Technological understanding

Through modern and developing technologies we exert an ever-greater influence on our surroundings by making improvements to housing, transport, communications and the everyday objects we use, at work and in leisure. Design Technology helps to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding, which makes this possible. It also prepares students to meet the future challenges of sustainability, in the face of increasing world population, climate change and finite resources, and to continue the development and control of technological advances.

Design thinking

The rigorous process that underpins designing and making activity demands both creative speculation and logical decision making to arrive at valid, and better, solutions. The essential core of Design Technology lies within the balances between: creativity and control; and thought and action. These thinking and practical skills are invaluable to each and every individual.

Evaluation of products and services

Industry and consumerism are now integral parts of our culture and everyone needs to be equipped to play their part, be it through contribution or response. Design Technology helps students express preference and exercise influence on their spending.

Skills for life

Through engaging with designing and making activities students develop a range of skills and personal qualities which will support them through life – and are valued by employers. These skills include independence, team working, resilience, resourcefulness, risk taking and entrepreneurship.

How is it assessed?

Paper 1
Written exam: 2hours [Core technical principles and core designing and making principles.]
100 marks
25% of A Level
Mixture of short answer, Multiple choice and extended response

Paper 2
Written Exam : 2 Hours [Specialist Knowledge , technical and designing principles]
25% of A Level
Mixture of short answer, multiple choice and extended response questions.

Section A:
• Product Analysis.
• Up to 6 short answer questions based on visual stimulus of product(s).

Section B:
• Commercial manufacture.
• Mixture of short and extended response questions

NEA (Non-Exam Assessment)
Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles and specialist knowledge.
Substantial Design and Make task
45 Hours
100 marks
50% of A Level
Written or Digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

It is very helpful for candidates to have studied GCSE Design & Technology before commencing work on this course; it is therefore suggested that students would have a level 6 in a design and technology discipline.

Why is it a useful qualification?

Design and technology is a practical and valuable subject. It enables young people to actively contribute to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of themselves, their community and their nation. It teaches how to take risks and so become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable. Students develop a critical understanding of the impact of design and technology on daily life and the wider world. Additionally, it provides excellent opportunities for students to develop and apply value judgements of an aesthetic, economic, moral, social, and technical nature both in their own designing and when evaluating the work of others. Design and Technology makes a unique and valuable contribution to the education and preparation for life for every student. For some it can be the start-point for highly satisfying and successful careers in industries that bring increasing economic benefit to the UK.