

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: PRODUCT DESIGN

Qualification Level	A Level
Exam Board/ Specification	AQA
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Why study this course?

Choose this subject if you enjoy designing and making products. There are a good number of practical lessons. You will have a strong interest in design or engineering, and likely considering this a stepping stone to either a design or engineering related degree course or an apprenticeship in a practical area.

The course will provide the opportunity to design a make a prototype product of your own choice.

Course content

This course helps you take a broad view of design and technology develops your capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. There is a great emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values

You get the chance to design and make products in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques. Materials can include plastics, woods, metals, card, and smart and modern materials and you also get to use current Computer aided manufacturing methods like laser cutting and 3d printing in addition to work shop tools.

Globalisation, new discoveries and technological breakthroughs have allowed the creation of products with high levels of creativity, functionality and sustainability. The aim of this course is to aid the development of a skill set that would facilitate abilities to design extremely innovative products to meet the needs of clients and consumers that are commercially viable and take into account demands such as moral, cultural, environmental and product maintenance issues.

Exam/ Assessment structure

Substantial design and make project	100 marks	50% of A-level
Paper 1: Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes	120 marks	30% of A-level
Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour and 30 minutes	80 marks	20% of A-level

Higher education/ career links

With a good pass in A level Product Design you can progress to university where you could study a wide range of degree courses or progress in a more vocational route into a wide range of careers including (but not limited to): Exhibition Designer, DT Teacher, Automotive Designer, Advertising Accountant, Marketing Executive, Automotive Engineer, Purchasing Manager, Buyer, Car Designer, Product Designer, Industrial Designer, Sales Executive, Architect, Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Electronics Engineer, Animator, Ceramics Designer, Fashion Designer, Furniture Conservator/Restorer, Furniture Designer, Glass Blower/Designer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Interior Designer, Jewellery Designer, Make-up Artist, Medical Illustrator, Museum/Gallery Conservator, Photographer, Printmaker, Production Designer, Theatre/Television/Film, Textile Designer, Cost Engineer, Web Designer, Computer Aided Designer, Product Design Engineer, CAD Developer, Interactive Media Designer, Kitchen Designer, Aerospace Engineer, Agricultural Engineer, Component Engineer, Drafting Technician, Computer Software Engineer, Construction Engineer, Health and Safety Engineer, Materials Engineer, Manufacturing Engineer, Packaging designer, Quality Assurance Engineer, Quality Control Engineer, Research and Development Engineer, R&D Engineer, User Interface Designer, CNC turner, Automotive technician, Aerodynamics Concept Designer, Workshop Fabricator, Vehicle Technician, Shoe Designer

Specific equipment or resources required

Course text book: AQA AS/A-Level Design and Technology: Product Design

A laptop (PC not mac) is an advantage but not essential, ideally with MS office (including publisher) and Fusion 360 software (free student download).

Entry requirements

The entry requirements will be a grade 5 or better in GCSE design technology. If you have not taken GCSE Design & Technology then please speak to Mr Pearce before applying.