

Course introduction

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industry.

You 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 your 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.



Entrance requirements

Students who wish to study Product Design must have acquired a minimum of 5 GCSEs or equivalent at 4-9, including Maths, English Language and at least one other from the following: Product Design, Graphics, Resistant Materials, or other DT based courses

How the course is taught

The course is taught using both practical and theoretical activities to build on the skills already acquired in KS3 and KS4. You will receive 5 periods a week combining practical workshop activities, theory and design skills. You will be taught the Core technical principles, core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge.

Throughout years 12 and 13 you are given the opportunity to design a new product based on any theme of your choice and your final product may be entered into the national Science and Engineering competition which offers cash prizes and the opportunity to further develop your product.

Students may have to contribute towards the cost of their practical projects and purchase a range of design media.

Areas covered by the course

Product Design is intended to reflect the wide-ranging activities of professional designers and covers a range of materials. Written papers will be restricted to testing the core content, but other materials such as ceramics and textiles and other areas such as electronics and mechanisms can be incorporated to produce exciting coursework. The course meets the needs of students who wish to combine 3D Designing, workshop based manufacturing with cutting edge computer visualization and animation.

How the course is assessed

The exam board is AQA

Paper 1

Core technical principles and core designing and making principles. An external examination which makes up 25% of the A level marks

Paper 2

Specialist knowledge, technical and designing and making principles. It is worth 25% of the A level marks.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

This is a substantial Design and Make task based on a context set by AQA where you will Design and Manufacture a product that address the Context.

Career opportunities

The course, when combined with other qualifications, provides a route into a range of Product Design related degree and Diploma courses at University for example, Graphic Design, 3D Product Design, Furniture Design etc. Additional options include Design and Technology Education.

