GCSE Design and Technology

Who is the course for?

Design and Technology is fundamentally about converting ideas and raw materials into products and services that we use in our everyday lives. Everything around us has been designed, from the cars we drive, the clothes we wear, the buildings we visit the programs we watch, even the deodorant we spray, they have all been designed, they have all been made.

GCSE Design and Technology prepares students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will also learn how to make effective design choices, whilst developing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding that consists of:

• New and emerging technologies
• Energy storage and generation
• Modern and smart materials
• Systems approach to designing
• Mechanical devices
• Materials and their working properties.
• Maths and Science will also be taught and integrated into projects throughout the course

What are the entry requirements?

Design and Technology offers students the ability to use skills and knowledge to creatively and independently design and make products. The subject requires maturity, independence, discipline, time management, problem solving skills and creativity. 50% of the course is coursework so a good level of English and Maths is beneficial.

How is the course assessed?

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams and submit all their non-exam assessment at the end of the course.

ASSESSMENT:
•50% Written Assessment – Paper 1 - 2hrs – 100 Marks
•50% Non Exam Assessment (Coursework) – 30-35 hrs – 100 Marks

Theory Content:
•Core technical principles
•Specialist technical principles
•Design and making principles.

NEA Content:
•Design and make task
•Identifying and investigating design possibilities
•Producing a design brief and specification
•Generating design ideas
•Developing design ideas
•Analysing & evaluating

•Contextual challenges are released annually by the exam board on 1 June in the year prior to the submission of the NEA.
•Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.
•Work will be marked by your Design and Technology teacher and moderated by AQA exam board.

CROSS CURRICULAR INFORMATION:
•15% of the exam will assess maths
•10% of the exam will assess science.

What can I do at the end of the course?

Whether you go onto study design at A level, BTEC or undertake an apprentice training-based qualification, a GCSE qualification in Design and Technology will provide support you with entering any of the following employment areas:
▫ Engineering ▫ Construction and building services ▫Motor vehicle –technology and repair
▫ Civil engineering ▫ Manufacturing ▫ Graphic design ▫ Fashion styling ▫ Art and design ▫ Media ▫ Architecture ▫ Furniture design ▫ CAD technical and IT Jobs. ▫ Web Developer ▫Photography