



GCSE Design Technology

- CORE COMPULSORY
- NON-QUALIFICATION
- OPTION
- EBACC SUBJECT

Examination board: AQA

Course code: 8552

Subject contact: Mrs H. Jones, Subject Leader for Design Technology

Course Description

Product designers create a wide range of items, from everyday products, such as mobile phones, household appliances and cars; to larger items, such as industrial tools, equipment and machinery. They work on new products or improve existing ones, and use their understanding of technology, materials and manufacturing methods to improve the design and usability of an item.

This course is taught in structured modules. During each module you will learn the knowledge and understanding of, product modelling and Technology theory through videos and support sheets before embarking on a design-based task.

The course includes:

- New and emerging technologies
- Energy materials and devices
- Printing processes; their pros and cons
- Materials and their working properties
- Market research and analysis to influence design inspiration
- Looking at sustainability and issues surrounding sustainable design
- Smart materials and modern technologies
- Spiritual, moral, social, cultural and environmental considerations relating to product design
- Metal casting, understanding the casting process
- Wood working skills, building up knowledge of different joints

Entry Requirements

Good prior achievement in Design Technology in KS3.
An ability to think independently and effectively meet deadlines.

Key Skills

Independent working and good organisation skills.

Cost

Year 10 –

- A £10 contribution to practical materials.
- £2.80 for a revision guide.

Year 11 –

- Students will supply their own materials or contribute financially to the school, who will order high quality materials

Assessment

50% Non-exam Assessment:

A design project worth 50% of the final grade. It focuses on the core principles of investigating, designing, making and evaluating. The exam board provides a contextual challenge which the students will analyse and create a prototype with a portfolio of evidence. It will be approximately 24 pages of A3 and both the product and portfolio will take no longer than 35 hours to produce.

50% 2 Hour Examination

The examination will focus on core technical principals, specialist technical principals and designing and making principles.

Careers

Product design, Engineering, Industrial design, Marketing, Architecture, Graphic designer.

Further education opportunities

Apprenticeships in practical trades.
A-level Product Design

Enrichment and Support

After school practical support.
BBC GCSE Bite-Size – AQA Board