A Level Design & Technology: Product Design

Who is this course for?

The course is aimed at enhancing, refining and developing skills first explored in GCSE Design and Technology. Strong emphasis is placed 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. There is a strong theoretical background which underpins the learning explored on the course and this is matched with the opportunity for practical learning. If you want to push your understanding of the subject and enjoy learning through practical projects, then this is the course for you.

What will I study?

Students can expect engaging learning linked to materials, resources, processing and manufacturing from a range of industrial sectors. Sustainability and the impact of design and manufacture upon the environment will be considered in detail. The needs and wants of different consumer groups will also be studied, linking to ergonomics and user-centred design. Computer aided design and manufacture will feature heavily in the course and you will become familiar with a range of digital manufacturing technologies. These include, 3D printing, laser cutting and CNC machining.

How will I be assessed

Formal Assessment takes place in the final year of the course and consists of two exam papers and an extended design and make project:

1. Technical Principles Exam -   30% of qualification
2. Designing and Making Principles Exam -   20% of qualification
3. Extended Project -   50% of qualification

Course entry requirements

Students would have ideally undertaken GCSE Design & Technology, gaining a minimum of grade 6. Students who have not had the opportunity to study at GCSE will be considered for the course if they can demonstrate other relevant experience. Additionally, students will need to have achieved 5 grade 9-5 at GCSE, including Maths and English in order to meet the entry requirements of the sixth form.

What can I do with this qualification?

Design & Technology sits alongside all other A level qualifications and contributes to the UCAS points required to access further education and university. There are a myriad of courses allied directly with the subject and it is an excellent foundation for Product Design, Architecture and Engineering Degrees.

Also consider BTEC Engineering, Computer Science, Art, Creative Media, Science, Maths