

Why study A Level Product Design?

The AQA A level in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject.

This specification encourages students to use creativity and imagination when applying iterative design processes to develop and modify designs, and to design and make prototypes that solve real world problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants, aspirations and values. In this ever-changing world, this course will help prepare you for a successful future.



What will I study?

The specification enables students to identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes. Students will acquire subject knowledge in design and technology, including how a product can be developed through the stages of prototyping, realisation and commercial manufacture.

Students should take every opportunity to integrate and apply their understanding and knowledge from other subject areas studied during key stage 4, with a particular focus on science and mathematics, and those subjects they are studying alongside A level design and technology.

Student Perspective

Product design gives you the chance to make projects your own. You have freedom to choose the direction of your assignments. The subject gives you a feel for what real industry is like, including deadlines! We use course CAD/CAM as well as a range of different machines and tools. The course also helps you with sketching techniques, and problem-solving skills. Overall, the course gives you a chance to design and make something, with freedom to explore your mind.

Product Design student.

Assessment

- **Component 1:** Paper 1: Technical principles- 2 hours and 30 mins
30% of qualification
- **Component 2:** Paper 2: Designing and making principles- 1 hour and 30 mins
20% of qualification
- **Component 3:** Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles Non-exam assessment:
50% of qualification

Study trips, visits and events

Students are encouraged to visit a range of sites to inspire and direct their projects. When possible, whole class trips are arranged to visit some of these sites.

Subject entry requirements

Grade 5 in a DT subject, **or** 5 in maths and two sciences.