

Design and Technology

GCSE – Exam Board AQA

Subject Leader: Mr Jefferson

What is it all about?

This GCSE allows students to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. Students will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

Who should take it?

You must:

- Enjoy designing and manufacturing products.
- Have an enquiring mind and willingness to explore ideas?
- if you like to put your ideas into practice

What will I learn on this course?

The course is an amalgamation of all the different disciplines of technology and so covers a very broad range of subject matter from graphics, resistant materials (woods, metals and plastics) through to electronics. It allows pupils to explore a wide range of construction media before specialising more in Year 11 through the non-examinable assessment task.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Written Paper 50% (2 hours) containing a mixture of different question styles, including open-response, graphical, calculation and extended-open-response questions.

Component 2: Non-examination assessment

Assessment overview:

- Students will undertake a project based on a contextual challenge released by AQA a year before certification.
- This will be released on 1st June and will be available on our website.
- The project will test students' skills in investigating, designing, making and evaluating a prototype of a product.
- Task will be internally assessed and externally moderated.
- The marks are awarded for each part as follows.
 - 1 – Investigate (16 marks)
 - 2 – Design (42 marks)
 - 3 – Make (36 marks)
 - 4 – Evaluate (6 marks)

What do your current students say?

“It’s fun as I’m a hands on person and the practical projects will help me for my future career”

“Enjoyable subject and nice to see what you’ve made in a practical environment from your own ideas”

“You get a lot of freedom designing what you want and it’s enjoyable seeing what you have created”

Is there anything else I need to know? (e.g. specialist clothing, equipment, materials etc.)

Protective clothing is available in the workshop although some students prefer to provide their own. The course encourages pupils to experiment with different materials. Some pupils choose more exotic or expensive materials that the school is not able to provide. In these circumstances the pupil will have to provide their own materials.

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Design and Technology/Engineering. People who have studied Design and Technology have gone on to be engineers, aerospace engineers, Automotive Engineers and Architects, the list is endless!

Who can I contact for further information?

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