Design and Technology: Product Design

What will I study and learn?

We will start by pushing your design skills to new heights and broadening your knowledge and understanding of the DT subject. We will introduce you to higher level CAD, quality iterative development and rendering skills. You will investigate design needs, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology to increase your knowledge and understanding of a wide range of modern and traditional materials and processes.

These skills will be applied through an iterative approach to designing and making that requires you to develop and use your creativity and imagination to manufacture prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. You will also need to consider others' needs, wants and values while designing and making.

Product Design at A level focuses on simulating real world practice through the design of commercial and industrial products. You will develop a detailed understanding of the design process, materials and their applications, knowledge of production methods and an understanding of the issues of quality, cost and marketability.

DT offers a great deal of support. You will have open access to staff and machinery. Your learning will be underpinned by on-going feedback from skilled practitioners. Staff in the area have backgrounds in engineering, product design and architecture, and include a co-author of the course and revision guide and the principle moderator of AS DT for the exam board.

Future opportunities

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers. Students often go on to undertake undergraduate degree courses ranging from Product and Industrial Design to Architecture, CAD design or Engineering disciplines.

"I joined in the Lower Sixth and was blown away by the opportunities available from the industry-level facilities for DT.

Millie, OB
Courses: Business Studies, Design and Technology, and Biology

Want to know more?

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Exam Board:
ocr.org.uk

How will I be assessed?

The course is linear, which means that all three components will be taken at the end of the Upper Sixth:

Examinations

Principles of Design **27**%

Problem Solving **23**%

You will need to demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of technical principles and the principles of designing and making in both papers. Analytical skills and the ability to evaluate outcomes and consider wider issues in design technology will also be assessed.

Non-Examined Assessment **50**%

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A grade 7 in the GCSE examination for Design & Technology would provide a suitable basis but it is not essential you have taken DT before. A good grade in related subjects, evidence of your skills and high levels of motivation will likely secure you a place on the course. It is essential that you understand and are prepared for the rigorous coursework components of the A level. You will also be self-motivated, independent and capable of self-directed study. The final exams include some maths at the standard of higher-level GCSE. If you do not study maths, it is suggested that you consider taking a maths elective to support you.