

What can I do after this course?

Many students have enjoyed studying GCSE Design & Technology so much that they go on to study A Level Product Design for a further two years.

However, it is possible to study any D&T related course at Sixth Form.

Technology subjects open up a wide range of STEM careers. These include Architecture, construction, civil engineering, mechanical and electrical engineering, fashion design, graphics and interior design, automotive and naval design to name just a few.

Of course, if Sixth Form is not for you, employers value this GCSE Design & Technology qualification as it develops creative, technical and transferable skills.

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GCSE Design & Technology: Specialism Timber

Exam Board: AQA



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Subject Guide Key Stage 4

GCSE
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How will I be assessed?

Paper 1

The first examination paper tests core technical principles, specialist technical principles, and designing and making principles. The written exam is 2 hours in duration and is marked out of 100. This is worth 50% of the GCSE. The questions are split into three sections:

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks). A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Technical principles, specialising in timber (30 marks). Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks). A mixture of short answer and extended response questions including a 12 mark design question. Students must also demonstrate mathematical and scientific knowledge and understanding in relation to design and technology.

Non-exam assessment (NEA)

The practical application of core technical principles is tested alongside specialist technical principles and designing and making principles. The assessment is non-examined, and will require approximately 30-35 hours of study. It is awarded out of 100 marks, and equates to 50% of the final GCSE grade. The assessment requires a substantial design and make task including investigation, designing, making, analysing and evaluating. Students will also produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence. Students may use any material within their projects. The assessment is internally assessed.

What will I learn?

Throughout Key Stage 3 you will have produced a wide range of exciting projects in Design and Technology, including graphics, textiles, food, electronics and RM. If you particularly enjoy the creative side of design and technology then you now have the opportunity to follow our two-year GCSE course to specialise in Design & Technology.

GCSE Design & Technology covers a wide range of activities based on designing and making products that are manufactured using materials such as wood, metal, plastics and textiles in many forms. As well as learning hand skills, you will use a range of industrial processes to shape and form materials into functioning products. Over the course of two years you will develop a whole range of creative designing and making skills, technical knowledge and understanding relating to Design & Technology and invaluable transferable skills such as problem solving, time management and STEM skills.

How is this course delivered?

The technology faculty comprises of 11 specialist rooms including a foundry for casting, brazing and welding of projects and materials which both KS4 and 5 use. Throughout the department there is excellent ICT provision with two computer laboratories and 40 laptops. All possess industry standard software. The whole faculty also uses digital displays and projectors. All classrooms and workshops are fully equipped with items such as CNC routers and vinyl cutters, a laser cutter, 3D printers, soldering equipment, computerised embroidery and dye sublimation machines.