



PRODUCT DESIGN

STAFF

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SUPPORT

In the Design & Technology department, we work closely with our students to help them reach their full potential. As a member of our A Level course, you are welcome to use our equipment and facilities whenever a member of staff is present.

INTRODUCTION

The products we use every day play a significant role in shaping our lives. Each one is thoughtfully designed to meet specific needs of 'primary users'. It is the responsibility of designers and engineers to create solutions that solve real-world problems effectively, safely, and sustainability. In this course, you will explore the principles of design and gain the practical skills needed to develop innovative products that address social, environmental, and economic challenges.

WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR FIRST LESSON

Product Design is a highly creative subject, and throughout the year, you'll develop your own unique style and methods for communicating design ideas. Our department is equipped with a broad range of both modern and traditional tools and machinery, giving you the freedom to explore and experiment. You'll be supported by a team of specialist, experienced, and highly qualified staff who are dedicated to helping you make exciting progress through hands-on, exploratory learning. All essential equipment is provided by the Design & Technology department. However, bringing a black pen and an HB pencil is always a good idea.

CLASSWORK, HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT STUDY

The A Level Product Design curriculum is structured around two core components: Design Theory and Practical through Project-Based Learning (PBL) approach.



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Our theory lessons equip students with the knowledge, concepts, and techniques needed to think critically and creatively as designers. Key topics include: *Identifying Requirements, The Work of Others, The Wider Implications of Design, Design and Communication, Material Selection, Manufacturing Processes, Technical Understanding, Evaluating Design Viability, and Health and Safety.*

Through practical, project-based learning, students engage with exciting design briefs, developing imaginative and well-considered solutions. Each project follows an iterative design process, encouraging students to refine and evolve their ideas toward a thoroughly developed final outcome.

A Level students enjoy priority access to our facilities and resources, enabling them to extend their learning beyond the classroom to complete independent work outside of scheduled lessons.

This course builds directly on the foundations laid in GCSE Design and Technology. A great way to prepare is to review your previous class notes and coursework, identify your strengths and opportunities for development and be ready to discuss these with your A Level teacher as you begin the next stage of your design journey.

RESOURCES

Students are supported with comprehensive project guides and high-quality exemplar materials that clearly outline the expectations of the course. To deepen their understanding, we recommend a broad selection of independent reading and industry-related resources. These materials help students stay informed about current trends, manufacturing processes, and design techniques within the professional creative industries, all of which is compiled together in our easy-to-access “iLearn” online learning platform.

At the start of the course, each student receives a copy of the OCR Design and Technology textbook, and we provide access to a range of video tutorials covering essential design skills via our dedicated YouTube channel (search *HGSDT*). We also encourage students to regularly practice sketching and presentation techniques as part of their preparation for A Level success.

We strongly encourage learners to immerse themselves in design beyond the classroom. A simple way to develop your design thinking is by engaging with the products around you. Ask yourself: *What is it made from? How was it made? How has it been designed for ergonomic comfort?*

This kind of curiosity and enthusiasm for design has helped many of our students secure places at their first-choice universities and gain apprenticeships that lead to exciting careers in the creative industries.