

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What is Design Technology?

Design is about making things better; it is about pre-empting the problems of tomorrow and finding solutions today. These are just some of the ways product design can be crystallised. To do so, however, is to take a hugely diverse subject that calls upon those studying it to apply creativity, initiative, independence of thought and action in the pursuit of producing ideas of value and originality. To do this well is not easy but can be hugely rewarding.

What will I learn about on this course?

Students will study topics ranging from the performance of materials to the technological developments that impact design, whilst providing opportunities for students to put their learning into practice by producing products of their choice. Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside learning knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

Assessment

The assessment will be evenly split between examined and non-examined components.

Component 1. Principles of Design and Technology - Written Exam

- Performance characteristics of materials
- Manufacturing processes and techniques
- Factors influencing the development of products
- Effects of technological developments
- Potential hazards and risk assessment
- Designing for maintenance and the cleaner environment
- Information handling
- Mathematical skills

Component 2. Independent Design and Make Project - Non-Examined Assessment (Coursework)

A portfolio submission of approximately 40 sides of A3 paper or electronic equivalent

1. Identification of a design problem
2. Designing a Prototype Design ideas
3. Making a Prototype Design
4. Evaluation and Testing of the Design and Prototype

Exam Board: Pearson

A strong performance in GCSE Design and Technology (Grade 6 or above) is the ideal foundation for A Level Product Design, however the department has in the past accepted pupils with strong backgrounds in related subjects at GCSE.

Design Technology is obviously an ideal preparation for Product Design and Engineering degree courses. Wellingborough School has a proven track record in preparing students for some of the most competitive courses in the country. It is, however, important to note that Design and Technology is a very flexible qualification and has been chosen in the past to complement a wide range of A Level options, with students going onto study degree courses ranging from Fine Art to Aerospace Engineering.

Exam Board: Pearson

**Assessment: 50% Written Examination
50% Coursework**



Sean Egan, Head of Design & Technology