

Studying Design and Technology

The two options available within Design and Technology are Textiles and Product Design. The aim of these courses is to encourage pupils to:

- Combine practical skills with knowledge and understanding, in order to design and manufacture quality products in a variety of scales of production
- Analyse and evaluate industrially manufactured products and production processes to develop an understanding of commercial practice
- Develop and demonstrate a wide range of graphical presentation and practical techniques
- Devise strategies for developing ideas, planning and producing products
- Consider how past and present design and technology, relevant to a design and manufacturing context, affects society
- Recognise the moral, cultural and environmental issues inherent in design and technology

Studying Textiles

Pupils will carry out product analysis by studying existing textile designs and products, and look at the work of past and present designers, as a starting point for the creation of new fashion designs. Through their studies of different textiles, pupils will develop a working knowledge of natural and synthetic fibres, and an awareness of technological advances in textiles materials and their applications in a wide range of industries. Pupils will learn a range of manufacturing skills and techniques including the use of CAD (Computer Aided Design) and CAM (Computer Aided Manufacture).

Studying Product Design

Product Design offers an alternative to the traditional Design and Technology options of Resistant Materials and Graphic Products, with a greater focus on the application of pupils' work to industrial and commercial practice. Pupils will design and manufacture products using a range of materials including paper products, wood, metals, plastics and composites. Pupils will use a range of graphical techniques such as annotated sketches, formal drawing conventions and CAD to communicate their ideas clearly, as well as digital photography and desktop publishing in the development and realisation of their ideas.

Assessment of the Course

Written Examination

50%

NEA/Coursework

50%

Both GCSE options are the AQA specification. The examination lasts two hours and tests the pupils on a range of broad and general questions on product design. It also allows candidates to display specific material knowledge, understanding and skills.

The Non-Examination Assessment is internally assessed and externally moderated. It addresses all aspects of the course in an integrated way and takes the form of a three dimensional product and concise design folder containing appropriate use of ICT.

Further Information

For further information, please speak to Mr Young for Product Design or Mrs Gate for Textiles. Additionally, visit www.aqa.org.uk.

