A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?

For this subject you will need a Grade 6 in Design Technology, Grade 5 in Maths and Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature. A firm interest in Product Design or related industries will also be required.

What will I study?

Paper 1: Technical Principles
30% of total A Level.
This paper will consist of shorter questions at the beginning leading to extended answers towards the end.

Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles
20% of total A Level.
This paper will consist of a mixture of short answer and structured extended responses. There will be two sections: Section A - Product Analysis;
Section B - Commercial Manufacture.

Non Examination Assessment (NEA)
50% of the A Level.
The NEA provides evidence of the practical application of core technical principles, core designing and making principles and additional specialist knowledge. It is a substantial design and make task and students are expected to spend about 45 hours on this work. Students are expected to submit a written or digital design portfolio of about 45 pages and photographic evidence of the final prototype.

Year 12:
In Year 12 you will carry out practical activities as well as studying the theory of Product Design in order to prepare yourself for the NEA and examinations at the end of the course.

Year 13:
During this year you will produce the NEA and complete the Technical Principles and Designing and Making Principles examinations. The NEA will consist of researching, designing, prototyping, making and evaluating a product of your choosing. This will be an extended practical activity. You will also continue to study the theory of Product Design to prepare for examinations.

How will I be assessed?

There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course.

There are 2 external examinations at end of Year 13 which are:

- Paper 1: Technical Principles;
- Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles.

The NEA will be regularly monitored and assessed and will require the meeting of interim and final deadlines. The NEA is internally assessed and moderated externally.

How will I study?

You need to be able to work independently and in teams, adhere to strict deadlines and have the desire to achieve high quality outcomes in all aspects of your work. You must have a keen interest in design and technological issues and be motivated to develop your CAD and CAM skills.

What does the subject combine well with?

The Product Design A Level subject will develop a wide range of transferable skills that can be used in many other subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, and Art.