

A LEVEL PRODUCT DESIGN
(AQA specification)

This course will introduce you to some of the challenges involved in becoming a product designer. You will be encouraged to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop your capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relationships between design, materials and manufacture. You will learn a range of technical designing and manufacturing skills and gain an understanding of market influences on product design. You will have access to a range of workshops that offer a wide selection of tools and processes. This includes 3D printing, milling, metal and wood turning, vacuum forming, as well as a large assortment of hand based tools.

YEAR 1

Materials, Components and Application

You will learn about material and component properties through research projects, presentations and focused practical tasks. You will also be researching and studying elements of design history, design philosophy, emerging technologies and will be applying a range of mathematical processes within a design and manufacturing context.

This year will include completing a range of projects that are designed to help enhance and improve your design capabilities along with your practical skills. You will work with a variety of appropriate materials including CAD/CAM technology in order to respond to a range of design briefs throughout the year. These projects will introduce you to a range of designing and practical skills in preparation for the coursework that is to be completed as part of the second year at A Level.

YEAR 2

During your second year you will complete a design portfolio in response to two design briefs. Both briefs will involve a substantial and detailed design project which will give you the opportunity to manufacture a high quality product. This will involve the entire design process including research, designing, developing, production and evaluation. Previous examples include contemporary furniture, slide guitars, children's toys, sports equipment and windsurfing safety devices.

Post-study options: A Level Product Design is widely accepted by universities for a variety of degree courses, notably in engineering (eg mechanical, production/manufacturing, electrical, automotive and aeronautical), product design, industrial design, architecture, and planning and management.

GCSE requirements:

English Language – grade 4

Maths – grade 4

Grade 5 in a design or art-based subject (preferred but not essential)