Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE Design and Technology

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: 8552

What is GCSE Design and Technology all about?

Teaching and Learning in GCSE Design and Technology is dynamic, varied and enjoyable allowing all pupils to achieve. Emphasis is placed on pupil development and a willingness to work independently and as part of a team is crucial. As well as problem solving, pupils will need to be creative and prepared to participate fully in all lessons and develop their interpersonal skills and subject knowledge in a variety of areas including CAD/CAM, materials and properties.

Course Structure:

This course requires pupils to use their imagination and creative skills to design and make a range of products suitable for human use. A variety of commercial products will be made using a range of woods, metals, plastics and compliant materials. Pupils will develop CAD/CAM skills as well as improving their hand skills and learning about design influences and sustainability.

An understanding of how products are designed, developed and manufactured will lead to pupils being able to produce products to the highest possible standards.

In Year 9 and 10 pupils will analyse designers, themes or architects buildings and use one of these as their inspiration to base their design of a clock on. They will then research, plan and develop an idea and produce a prototype before manufacturing their design to a fully working product. This project focuses on pupils' knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology and will provide pupils with an understanding of the Design Process to help them with their final project. A design portfolio will be produced alongside the development of practical skills and subject knowledge.

How will I be assessed?

Towards the end of Year 10 pupils will begin their Controlled Assessment. This is worth 50% of their final grade and is a design and make activity from a theme set by the exam board. Pupils often develop products taking influence from existing products and should design their product with a particular target market or client in mind.

Pupils are also required to complete one 2 hour examination (worth the remaining 50%), with time spent on developing exam technique and differentiation for all abilities.

What could I do next with GCSE Design and Technology?

This course is designed to attract pupils predicted Grades A*-C at GCSE and can lead onto pupils studying Product Design at A Level, as well as leading to College courses such as Engineering, Mechanics, Plumbing, Brick Laying, Electrical Services, etc.