



A-Level Design and Technology: Product Design

Why Design and Technology?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers. Especially those in the creative industries.

They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice.

Students will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

What can I expect?

A mixture of theory and practical lessons which will prepare you for future careers, as well as the **2 exam papers** (Paper 1: Technical principles; 30%, Paper 2: Designing and Making Principles; 20%) and a **substantial design and make project**, NEA, worth 50%.

What do I need?

In addition to the general entry requirement for the Sixth Form, the minimum requirement for the course is a Design and Technology GCSE grade 5.

What about the future?



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Paul says D&T is important!

"In a world which is so over-supplied, one way to succeed and stand out is to have a creative and lateral way of thinking about things. Creativity makes businesses, careers and futures for people and this is why subjects like Design and Technology are so important."

Sir Paul Smith Fashion Designer



Holly says I earned as I learned!

"The mix of practical and theoretical learning in D&T suited me and so I looked for career routes with the same approach. I started with the Higher Apprenticeship engineering scheme at JCB which provided valuable on-the-job experience whilst earning at the same time. Having completed my Mechanical Engineering degree I am now a Design Engineer at JCB."

Holly Broadhurst Design Engineer, JCB



Career prospects

As well as job satisfaction the rewards will include a good salary and good promotional prospects. The average salary for designers is growing much faster than the UK average and engineers typically earn £25,000 to £40,000 more than the national average. Alternatively, you may decide to be an entrepreneur and start your own company or business.