Design & Technology

A-level Product Design: Graphic Products

This course covers all aspects of product design, with an emphasis on modelling ideas rather than producing an actual working item. Free-hand and technical drawing skills will be developed, enabling students to communicate their design ideas clearly using a range of techniques and media. Students will also use computer aided design software to produce 3D 'virtual models'.

The theoretical aspects of the course include

- Materials – paper, board, metals, woods, plastics, 'smart' materials
- Manufacturing processes, health & safety, quality assurance and quality control
- Environmental issues and sustainability
- Design movements and the influence of design on the lifestyle of consumers

'Product Design has made me realise how much effort is put into designing everything around me'

'Product Design is a fun subject but it is hard work'

'The coursework is creatively challenging but engaging'

'I didn't realise how much independent work there would be but it is a really interesting subject'

'It makes you look at the products you use everyday in a new way'

'Watching *The Gadget Show* is homework!'

To be successful in this course you will need:

- The ability to carry out research that is focused. You will have to be able to sort out what is relevant.
- The ability to communicate your design ideas in a wide variety of ways.
- The imagination to generate innovative designs.
- Higher level thinking skills – analysis, evaluation and synthesis.
- To be able to choose and use a wide range of tools, materials and components with accuracy and skill.
- ICT skills – and the ability to recognize when it is appropriate to use ICT.
- The ability to manage your time well in order to meet deadlines.
- To be independent – thinking for yourself, working out what needs to be done in order for you to be successful, completing homework, reading around the subject.

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Over the last 3 years ...

AS results have moved from 36% grade B or above to 50% and from 64% on target to 75% .

And **A2 results** have moved from 36% grade B or above to 75% and from 73% on or above target to 75% with the number of students exceeding their targets moving from 18% to 75% ! .