

AS/A2 LEVEL DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY: Product Design (3-D Design)

INTRODUCTION

Product Design (3-D Design) is a new course within Design and Technology and is available for study at AS and A Level. The course is offered to students who have previously studied Design and Technology at GCSE in either of the following disciplines: Resistant Materials, Graphic Products, Textiles Technology, or Product Design. This new specification has been designed to:

- encourage candidates to take a broad view of design and technology
- develop candidates' capacity to design and make products and to appreciate the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing.

Design and Technology at advanced Level is all about students developing their personal capability and taking responsibility for decisions about their own work. Throughout the course common skills, such as graphical communication, computer aided designing (CAD), computer aided manufacturing (CAM), and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) will be developed through a combination of core and individual task activities .

'But I've always found drawing hard. I'm not sure that I will be good enough to tackle an A level course in Design.'

We will help you to build on your strengths. With fewer subjects and more time, you will be able to practice skills and techniques. We are looking for enthusiasm and commitment rather than just raw talent.

'In what way will A level be different from GCSE Design and Technology?'

Yes, the advanced level course in Product Design extends your understanding of how things are designed and made. You will learn how the commercial world uses designers to resolve their production problems, to make

better, more competitive products. You will also have opportunity to look at how designers through history have responded to solve problems.

'How practically based will the course be?'

Learning, wherever possible, will be achieved through 'active doing' or 'experiencing' activities. In the AS year students produce an electronic portfolio of evidence, spread across three mini projects. In the A2 year this is reduced to one substantial major project of about 80 hours work in total. There will be considerable design theory to learn and this is used to fill in the detailed knowledge which cannot be learned through each student's practical experiences.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Many students who have studied A level Design go on to study 'design' related higher education courses though it is a valuable qualification for a whole range of architectural, engineering and managerial type courses.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

A Design and Technology GCSE at grade C or above is absolutely necessary.

ASSESSMENT

AS: 50% of the specification content
50% Examination Assessment

AS represents 50% of the A-level

A2: 50% of the specification content
50% Examination Assessment

For further information see Mr P Valentine or Mr D Beckett