Product Design

Course content

Do you want to make the world a better place for consumers? Do you look at some products and think you could have done better? Have you ever wondered how a product continues to stay popular in the marketplace?

Product Design is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in several careers; especially those in the creative industries. The subject content is focused on consumer products and applications; their analysis in respect of materials, components, and marketability to understand their selection and uses in industrial and commercial practices of product development.

The course is designed to teach students to initiate design solutions and develop, test and trial working models and prototypes. Develop and sustain imagination, innovation and flair when working with concepts and material. Develop an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials. Develop thinking skills, financial capability, and enterprise and entrepreneurial skills.

During the two-year course, you will study a range of materials. You will develop a technical understanding of how products function and how they are made to appropriately support the design and manufacture of your own design solutions. You will learn about wider design principles and the effect of design on users and the world we live in. You will identify market needs and opportunities for new products, initiate and develop design solutions, and make and test prototypes/products.

Entry requirements

Grade 5 in GCSE Product Design or GCSE Art

Assessment

1. **Technical Principles** – 2 hours and 30 minutes (written paper) – 120 marks - 30% of A-level
2. **Designing & Making Principles** – 1 hour and 30 minutes (written paper) – 80 marks - 20% of A - level
3. **Design Portfolio** – Non–exam assessment (NEA) – 100 marks – 50% of A – level

Progression

This qualification can lead to a variety of different career pathways, including product design, engineering and architecture.

It could also form part of your route into university, especially if you wish to pursue a subject like Engineering.

Some students progress to taking advanced apprenticeships with local companies or gain employment directly in the technology and engineering sector in their local area.