Design and Technology GCSE

Awarding Body: AQA
Specification: GCSE Design and Technology
Code: 8552

Introduction

The GCSE Design and Technology curriculum is exciting, stimulating and challenging. It is an excellent opportunity for students to apply and reinforce their learning in core subjects, such as Mathematics and Science. Design and Technology is a pathway to careers in Engineering, Industrial Design, Architecture and many other creative industries.

Due to Health and Safety regulations the Design and Technology GCSE course must be restricted to a maximum of 20 students per class. Therefore, places are limited to 40 students, in two classes of 20.

Course overview

The GCSE Design and Technology course provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the design process, whilst refining and increasing practical skills. Students are encouraged to use creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real world problems, considering their own and others', needs, wants, and values.

GCSE Course structure

The new GCSE Design and Technology course will be structured as follows:

Exam unit: 50%: 2 hours: 100 marks

The examination unit will assess student's technical knowledge and their understanding of design principles. This will be in relation to their understanding of modern materials and manufacturing processes as well as knowledge of the chosen area of interest.

Non-exam unit: 50% of GCSE: 40 hours (approx.): 100 marks

The non-exam unit will require students to design and make products and prototypes of high quality according to the chosen area of interest. The experience gained from managing extended project work is highly transferable.