Design Technology | GCSE

TEACHER RESPONSIBLE FOR COURSE : Mr S. Gilham

We consider Design and Technology to be at the heart of the curriculum where pupils can bring together and apply all their learning experiences in a practical setting. While you're weighing up your options, take a minute to consider just what you might gain if you choose Design and Technology.

What is GCSE Design and Technology all about?

The course is all about:
- Drawing on knowledge and understanding from across the curriculum, particularly maths and science, and applying this in practical ways to real-life situations
- Providing unique opportunities to analyse products and their impact on society and raise awareness and understanding of the technological issues faced today
- Offering opportunities to develop as thinkers, planners, inventors and communicators
- Giving you the confidence to live, work and contribute in our technological world

Will I enjoy the course?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that offers:
- creativity, independent learning, innovation, presentation and making skills
- creation of effective workable solutions by resolving conflicting demands
- an incredible feeling of achievement from designing and manufacturing something that can make a real difference
- developing precisely those skills which employers are crying out for through a subject which is relevant, practical, rigorous and highly motivating

Aims of the course?

- Enjoy turning ideas into reality
- Strive for successful outcomes
- Be creative and develop thinking skills
- Work independently and develop self-esteem
- Develop attitudes of curiosity, enquiry, initiative, ingenuity, resourcefulness

GCSE Design & Technology (running from September 2017)

The syllabus runs across year 9, 10 and 11 and focuses on the following skills:

Practical skills, theoretical knowledge, drawing skills, designing skills, modelling skills and ICT skills. The delivery of practical skills will be through focused practical tasks, where the students learn the hands-on skills which underpin the course. For the controlled assessment part of the course, students undertake a single design and make activity from a range of tasks set by the exam board. Creativity and sustainability are encouraged and new technologies such as smart and nano materials all feature in the latest specification.

The AQA Design & Technology final assessment consists of 30 – 35 hours of non-exam assessment (50% of GCSE) and culminates with a written 2 hour exam paper (50% of GCSE).