

## What is the course about?

Students opting for Design Technology in Year 9 will be introduced to a wide variety of new materials and processes, building on their prior knowledge from KS3. The course aims to encourage individuality and enable students to develop skills across a range of materials. This is a GCSE course with a coursework project and written exam at the end of Year 11.



## What topics will I study?

Students will look at contextual influences such as; key designers, significant inventions and cultures. Within Year 9 students will engage with all areas of Design Technology through a diverse range of projects. Materials covered include; paper and card, timber, metals, plastics, textiles and electronics.

In Year 10 and 11 students continue to develop their skills and knowledge but are able to specialise in a particular material for example, woodwork or textiles. Students work with a clear focus on specific design movements and themes to design products to specific briefs. The coursework culminates in a final working prototype and a portfolio of research and design.

## What activities will there be?

We have strong links with the Reading University Institute of Education Art and Design Technology Departments, giving students the opportunity to visit the department and use the facilities.

We offer a range of after school catch up and revision sessions which students are encouraged to attend, particularly in the lead up to exams.

## What percentage of the final grade is from coursework?

50% of the Design Technology GCSE is coursework. This encapsulates all work completed within class and home learning. The remaining 50% of the course is a written exam paper completed at the end of Year 11.

## What about after Key Stage 4? (Careers and College)

Design Technology GCSE leads to a range of courses at Further and Higher Education. Careers could include Graphic Designer, Fashion Design, Architect, Web Designer, Games Developer, Mechanical Engineer, Software Programmer. The nature of the skills developed means that Design Technology is a perfect stepping stone for any career with creative, analytical and problem solving attributes.

## Exam board and useful website?

Exam board - Edexcel. <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/design-and-technology-2017.html>