Course Information

A Level Design and Technology
Product Design (AQA 7552)

What is A Level Art?
A Level Design and Technology is a creative and thought-provoking qualification which gives practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of career areas.

What does the course cover?
- Investigates historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences of design and technology.
- Allows practical learning by producing prototypes of the student's choice.
- Explores a wide range of practical skills, techniques and processes.
- Introduces theory knowledge necessary to work with related materials.
- Students gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer.

What themes are studied?
- Students engage in both practical and theoretical study. Students cover two main themes;
  -Technical principles
  -Designing and making principles
- Technical principles cover materials and their properties and characteristics, which includes papers and boards, woods, polymers, metals, elastomers, composites and smart and modern materials. It also incudes processes and finishes of these materials, along with computer systems, production methods, rapid prototyping and virtual modelling.
- Designing and making principles cover designing for manufacture, marketing products, design theory, evaluation and social and moral issues.

Assessment
The course is assessed by a final exam, consisting of two papers totalling 50% of the grade and a non-exam assessment (NEA) which is a substantial design and make project and provides the remaining 50% of the grade.

A Level Design and Technology Product Design
Paper 1 Technical principles 2 hours and 30 minutes, 30% of A-level **Paper 2** Designing and making principles 1 hour and 30 minutes, 20% of A-level **Non-exam assessment (NEA)** Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles. Design portfolio and production of final prototype.

Course entry requirements
Ideally Level 4 or above in GCSE Design and Technology.

What next?
After the A-level you can continue your studies with Design and Technology related degree courses, related further training or employment.

There is wide variety of careers that students can follow on to. These could include architecture, graphic or industrial design, mechanical engineering, interior design, web developer and so on.

For further information please contact your DT teacher or Miss Ayres (Head of Faculty ADT).