



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY A-LEVEL

WHY SHOULD I STUDY A-LEVEL DESIGN TECHNOLOGY?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives pupils the theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. They will investigate historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic influences on design and technology, whilst enjoying opportunities to put their learning in to practice by producing prototypes of their choice in a range of materials. Pupils will gain a real understanding of what it means to be a designer, alongside the knowledge and skills sought by higher education and employers.

WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Pupils will learn about the physical and mechanical properties and classification of a wide range of natural and man-made materials. In the context of small focused practical tasks pupils will learn about many of the (commercial and industrial) processes available to manipulate materials for use in products. King Edward's has three well equipped workshops and a full-time technician so a wide range of tools, processes and techniques can be demonstrated, practiced and used in lessons and after school clubs. Through drawing, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and modelling, pupils will design and make several prototypes, most notably the assessed project in the Upper Sixth.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

2 written exams worth 50%. A mixture of short answers and extended responses are required. A substantial design and make task with written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of the final prototype (50%). Pupils must demonstrate skills in maths, but always in the context of designing and making (up to GCSE level).

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Most of the things in our lives have been designed. Good design is often taken for granted but we are quick to notice bad design. The nature of the subject is fantastic at developing key skills needed in life: researching, problem solving, time management, evaluation, project management, collaborative work, presentation and communication skills, creativity, and IT skills.

WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

Design Technology will give you skills and knowledge to progress in many career paths. Engineering (e.g. automotive or aerospace), product design, construction, architecture, and robotics are obvious but also advertising, the food industry, fashion, film and many others.

Exam Board: AQA

