

Spalding Grammar School Sixth Form

Subject Information

Design and Technology

Entry Requirement:

Grade 6 in GCSE DT Product Design, GCSE Textiles, GCSE Engineering. You must also have Grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics.

Awarding body: AQA

About the subject:

The course has been designed to encourage students to take a broad view of design and technology, to develop their capacity to design and make products whilst appreciating the complex relations between design, materials, manufacture and marketing. Students will be given opportunities to develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills, applying knowledge and understanding to a range of technological activities, to develop critical thinking and collaborative skills. The course enables students to enhance their design capability by developing their practical skills in ICT SpaceClaim, CAD and CAM including laser cutting and 3D printing techniques, in addition to other industrial processes.

Students who have studied Product Design at A Level have gone on to study a variety of degree subjects including Industrial Design and Technology, Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Footwear design and transport design. A number of former students have also moved directly into employment with companies such as Jaguar Land Rover and Perkins Caterpillar, based on the CAD/CAM skills they have developed over the duration of the course.

Assessment:

The Design & Technology course is AQA A Level DT: Product Design, which allows students to pursue a range of design and manufacturing challenges. A major focus of the course is creativity, whilst developing detailed knowledge of the design process. Students will utilise resistant materials, whilst manufacturing and marketing prototypes throughout the course.

The course consists of two main assessments criteria, firstly external examinations and secondly a single design and make task all completed in the final year. The examinations cover materials, components and applications and design and manufacture. Each examination is equally weighted contributing towards half of the course assessment. The design and manufacture is a single design and make prototype project.