



# A Level Product Design

## Product Design

### Why study Product Design?

In today's rapidly advancing world where the use of the planet's resources is to be considered carefully, designers are rising to the exciting challenge of rethinking and re-designing products in a more sustainable way. Advances in modern materials and technologies are increasing the possibilities and opportunities to create products that are innovative in new and imaginative ways.

### What is the course structure?

#### A-Level Assessments

Paper 1: Core technical principles; Redesigning and making principles  
(Written exam 2 hours, 25% of A-Level)

Paper 2: Specialist knowledge; Technical knowledge; Designing and making principles  
(Written exam 1 hour, 25% of A-Level)

- x Classifying materials and identifying, testing and comparing their application to product manufacture
- x The implications of Health & Safety as an element of design activity
- x Evaluation of alternative designs and redesigning existing products
- x Use of natural resources, materials utilisation, conservation, waste disposal/management, pollution, recycling
- x Appreciation and understanding of the use of CAM for industrial production
- x The impact of changes in technologies and cultures on the work of designers
- x Planning production procedures and methods in industrial and commercial practice

Non-exam assessment  
(100 marks, 50% of A Level)

- x A written (or digital) design portfolio and manufactured outcome completed over approximately 45 hours.

### Which activities will I be engaged in during the course?

- x Testing and comparing materials and their capabilities
- x Assessing the sustainability of products
- x Visiting the Design Museum in London
- x Carrying out independent market research
- x Developing design sophistication
- x Using CAD/CAM to produce professional quality products
- x Producing comprehensive design portfolios
- x Developing independent study skills

### How can I prepare for the course?

- x Watch programs on Discovery Science such as Tech To's 360, How Do They Do It?, Extreme Engineering, Inside the Factory, How It's Made and How Stuff Works.

