

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

GCSE FAQs

How is the course assessed?

The assessment of the GCSE course is split into two parts:

- Written Paper (50%)
- Non-Exam Assessment (Coursework): Design Task (50%)

How often will I do practical work?

This varies throughout the course. Some of the projects in year 10 are entirely practical, some are design and make tasks and other projects focus on developing particular design and modelling skills. Typically, one lesson a week focusses on project work, one lesson will be spent developing theory knowledge.

What projects would I do?

This varies throughout the course. Some projects are prescribed and are planned by teachers to develop particular skills. For some of the other projects, you are given a design challenge to start and advice throughout, you decide the direction of the project and what the outcome will be.

What types of project are made for the NEA?

In year 11 the NEA projects vary. You have a choice of design challenges, set each year by the exam board. The problems you identify from these challenges will decide the direction of your NEA. Even from the same initial design challenge, students will come up with very different projects. In the past few years projects have included a temporary network system for use in areas after natural disasters, low-cost water filtration systems for developing countries, a fire alarm system for the hearing impaired, sustainable cardboard furniture for festivals and projects to support students with home learning.

What materials will I work with?

You will work with a wide range of materials. Most of the skills projects will use resistant materials (timber, plastics, metal). When modelling you will typically use card, foam and paper. However, you will learn about a wide range of materials including textiles, modern materials and smart materials. You will also complete some electronics work. When completing project work, you will use your knowledge and experience to decide on the most appropriate materials and processes to use for your designs.