



# GCSE

# Design & Technology



## Why study Design & Technology?

Studying GCSE Design & Technology offers a unique opportunity for you to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. This course will equip you with the skills and confidence to design and create in an increasingly technological world, and to be aware of wider influences on design and technology, emerging technologies, environmental issues, impact on society and the needs of future generations.

Pupils will have an opportunity to express a preference for working in one of areas from the following (subject to availability and exam board task setting): workshop based (e.g. a selection from timbers, polymers or metals); graphics and modelling (e.g. paper and boards) and textiles (fashion or interiors).

**Exam Board:**



## Overview of course content (specification code: 603/1121/6)

### Topics Studied

Within this course, you cover two principles, each containing topics:

#### Technical Principles

##### Core Knowledge and Understanding

- Design and technology and our world
- Smart materials
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical components and devices
- Materials

##### In-depth Knowledge & Understanding (at least one):

- Electronic systems, programmable components and mechanical devices
- Papers and boards
- Natural and manufactured timber
- Ferrous and non-ferrous metals
- Thermosetting and thermoforming plastics
- Fibres and textiles

#### Designing & Making Principles

Within the 'designing and making' segment of this course, you will also explore core knowledge and understanding and in-depth knowledge and understanding in relation to at least one of the topics listed above.

### Examination and Assessment

Within this course, you will complete one written examination and one non-exam assessment (NEA).

#### Examination

##### Component 1: Design & Technology in the 21st Century (written examination)

Assessed on knowledge and understanding of:

- technical principles
- designing and making principles

Exam duration: 2 hours  
(100 marks)

##### Component 2: Design and make task (non-exam assessment)

Assessed on ability to:

- identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- design and make prototypes
- analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology

Approximately 35 hours  
(100 marks)

**% of GCSE**

50%

50%

