

AQA Design Technology: Resistant Materials Specialism

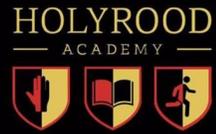
HOLYROOD
ACADEMY



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Overview of AQA Design Technology: Resistant Materials specialism



Course content

During the course students cover the core technical principles, specialist technical principles and designing and making principles.

Students then focus on developing their specialist knowledge of Woods, Metals and Plastics through a broad range of design and make projects and theory, such as task lighting and designing for a users needs. Students have the opportunity to develop their skills in Computer aided design by using both tinkercad and fusion 360 and we are developing the use of 3d printing within the curriculum

The DT GCSE now gives students the opportunity to incorporate both Electronics and Textiles into their Resistant materials projects, allowing for a wider, less restrictive and more creative approach to their final project. This product design approach provides a superb foundation for further and higher education courses and apprenticeships. In recent years project have included full size furniture with bespoke textiles, products to help the disabled and sensory educational toys

AQA GCSE Design Technology

At the end of year 10 students start their NEA (Non exam assessment), creating a 20 page A3 design portfolio alongside a prototype product. This accounts for 50% of their final grade. The contexts for the NEA are set by the exam board but they are broad and open which allows students to develop their own interests and ideas within AQA's framework. This part of the course is marked and moderated by their teachers

Students complete their NEA by March of year 11 before undertaking focussed revision for the written exam. This 2 hour exam accounts for the final 50% of the overall grade and is in 3 sections: Core technical principles, Specialist technical principles and Designing and making principles. It is a combination of multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions. This exam takes place during the normal summer exam period

Where can this subject and qualification lead?

GCSE Design Technology provides an outstanding foundation for a broad range of further and higher education courses as well as apprenticeships and careers.

In addition to the obvious routes such as the building trades and engineering, students can go on to study further in courses such as Furniture making, Silversmithing and jewellery design, Film, theatre and costume design, Contemporary crafts like ceramics and glass, Surface pattern design, the Aerospace industry, Architecture, Product design, Interiors, Transport and car design and Fashion and accessories. This list is by no means exhaustive and exclusive as design technology influences everything we use on a daily basis. Students from Holyrood have gone to study in many of these areas in recent years

And finally Roger Kneebone, professor of surgical education at Imperial College, London, has recommended that students wishing to study medicine also study a practical subject as evidence shows that students who do, have better surgical dexterity and skills, making them more proficient doctors and surgeons.

Any questions

You will have an opportunity to ask any questions you might have tomorrow night during the year 9 parents' evening.

Otherwise you can contact me via email
wdcosta@gapps.holyroodacademy.com

Previous coursework examples

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