Design and Technology

AQA GCSE Specification

Penwortham Girls' High School

Introduction: The GCSE Design & Technology, allows students who have a passion for Fashion & Textiles and product design to combine their interests with technology, materials and manufacturing in one GCSE course. Through the core technical principles, Students will learn about new and emerging technologies, developments in new materials and aspects of manufacturing and production processes when making a product in industry. Pupils will also learn about what it is that drives product development and why things continually change and improve over time. Pupils will be encouraged to demonstrate their passion, creativity and flair for Fashion, Textiles and design, through a project-based GCSE.

Description of the course: The course content covers a large range of technical and theoretical knowledge as well as exploring a range decorative and constructive techniques in order to develop their creative thinking through a range of different designing and making tasks. Pupils are encouraged to use their creativity to solve real life problems through a Textiles approach, experimenting with traditional techniques but incorporating new and emerging technologies, such as laser cutting, Dye Sublimation, 3D printing and computerised embroidery (CAD/CAM). Students will be encouraged to explore a range of past and present designers and artists to help influence their thinking.

How you will learn: Pupils will develop their knowledge through focused classroom activities, which will be re-enforced by homework tasks. Weekly theory lessons, including examination practice, will support and underpin project work. Throughout the duration of the course, trips and visits are planned to real life industry settings and galleries/ exhibitions, along with annual residential trips to broaden their knowledge and aspirations for a future career involving Design & Technology.

Assessment: Unit 1: 2 hour **written examination** at the end of year 11, worth 50% of the total marks. Unit 2: **Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)**Controlled assessment project of around 35 hours completed in year 11, worth 50% of the total marks.

Using this qualification: The problem-solving focus of Design & Technology is a generic skill that is useful in a wide range of contexts and careers, combined with the creativity and technical skills of the Textiles focus, this open many career pathways to the students who take Design & Technology. Potential career could involve architect, Engineer, fashion designer, fashion styling, graphic designer, furniture designer, jewellery designer, interior designer, landscape designer, printer/reprographics, product designer, shoe designer, theatre and film set designer.

Subject Leader: Mrs M. Moss