



Specification: AQA Product Design Specification:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/as-and-a-level/design-and-technology-product-design-7552>

*Of the books/ activities listed below, you need to choose **at least two**. Immediately after each of these (before you forget), you should complete the Sixth Form Induction Tasks Worksheet.*

If you are unsure of what to go for, look for those marked with an asterix * (or two **).

Books

- **** James Dyson - *Against the Odds: An Autobiography***
Dyson's freewheeling account of his struggles, failures and successes is interspersed with his unorthodox ideas on business, and his hard-won insights on how to turn an inspired idea into a household name. An excellent start to learning about how to truly design in the real work and the processes you should go through.
- **Chris Anderson - *Makers: The New Industrial Revolution*.**
Chris Anderson explains how this is happening: how such technologies as 3D printing and electronics assembly are becoming available to everybody, and how people are building successful businesses as a result. Whereas once every aspiring entrepreneur needed the support of a major manufacturer, now anybody with a smart idea and a little expertise can make their ideas a reality.
- **DK - *Design: The Definitive Visual History***
Design: The Definitive Visual History lays out the complete evolution of design, from its origins in early cultures to the contemporary design - physical and digital - of today. This comprehensive volume covers every major design movement, along with the iconic designers and manufacturers who influenced everyday life through the objects and buildings they created.

Activities

- ****Visit the Design Museum, Kensington.** <https://designmuseum.org/>
An excellent basis for learning about contemporary and past design. The world's leading museum devoted to contemporary design in every form from architecture and fashion to graphics, product and industrial design.
- **Visit the V & A museum, South Kensington.** <https://www.vam.ac.uk/>
The V&A is the world's leading museum of art and design. The Museum holds many of the UK's national collections and houses some of the greatest resources for the study of architecture, furniture, fashion, textiles, photography, sculpture, painting, jewellery, glass, ceramics, book arts, Asian art and design, theatre and performance.



- ****Join our DT twitter site and create your own.** <https://twitter.com/ChallonerDT>
Twitter is a great resource to read/find contemporary issues about design in the real work. By joining you can tweet your own stories you find interesting and also see what we at Challoner think are relevant and interesting.
- **Create an Instagram account just for design images -** <https://www.instagram.com>
Aim to take an image a day in the holiday based on images that inspire you. This will provide a basis for inspiration for when you design. Try to make your images inspiring; consider your content and have fun with it!
- ***Join Pinterest and start to pin work that interests you.** <https://uk.pinterest.com/>
People use Pinterest to discover and save ideas. Ideas can take lots of forms, from recipes to renovation projects to the perfect pair of shoes. Every idea is represented by a “Pin” that includes an image, a description and a link back to the image’s source online. When people click a Pin’s URL they can find out more about the idea and act on it. In addition follow our Challoner Pinterest sight: <https://uk.pinterest.com/RCTechnology/>
- **Create a sketch book.**
Create a sketch book – any little book. Collect images, articles, pictures, sketch, paint etc. This can be something you can use for ideas or just a doodling area where you practise your sketches. Some quote that may inspire you – “Good ideas can come at any time, so always have a pencil to hand”. “How pretty a sketch looks isn’t important. It’s all about communicating ideas to those around you”.
- **Who inspires me?**
Find out about contemporary people/pieces in design/engineering and put together a small project or even just a sketch book of the work that reflects your passion/interests. For example, if you already know that you want to become an architect perhaps you may just want to focus on this area. This could take shape in any form.
- **Watch manufacturing videos – Showbie (and also YouTube).**
Watch any videos provided via Showbie, especially around manufacturing processes. You can also find YouTube videos about manufacturing and product design and create your own library to refer back to on the course.
- ****Watch some TV – mindfully!**
Watch design programmes on TV and actually watch it with a “designer’s” focus – make notes or sketches when you watch it. My favourite programme is “the big life fix with Simon Reeve” which can be bought on BBC store - <https://store.bbc.com/the-big-life-fix-with-simon-reeve>
George Clarke’s Amazing Spaces can be watched on 4oD for free and provides some inspiring ideas/concepts. You can also watch Grand Designs, Gadget Man and lots more on 4oD which may be of interest.