



Richard Challoner School

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DT: Product Design FAQs

Can you take Design Technology: Product Design for A-level when you have not taken it for GCSE previously?

The specific Entry Requirement of the course is GCSE Grade 6 or above in Design Technology or equivalent subject. (In addition, also GCSE Grade 5 or above in English Language and Mathematics). Students who **do not** have a L2 DT qualification would need a meeting with the Subject Leader before the end of the Summer term. However, this option of a meeting is usually the case for students that have previously **not** had the opportunity to pick DT as an option in their school for GCSE.

Why is there an entry requirement in the subject of Maths?

There is a Maths content in the examined unit equaling 15% of the grade. This is at higher tier GCSE Maths level and will be taught as part of the theory content for the course.

What other subjects work well alongside the Product Design A level course?

Some subjects are more obviously relevant to Product Design than others. These subjects have clear links with our subject: Physics, Maths, Geography and Art. However, we have had candidates on the course in the past that have taken a large variety of subjects at A level from English to PE.

Where could this course lead to?

Product design is a broad subject area, providing the opportunity for students to specialise their major project in an area they are particularly interested in. As well as the traditional areas of interest such as architecture, engineering, product/automotive design, graphics, interior design and manufacturing, we have had students going onto to a variety of careers including finance, geography and languages.

What are the facilities like at Richard Challoner school for Product Design?

We are very lucky that Design Technology has a purpose-built suite of rooms complete with a computer suite for CAD/CAM and 3 workshops. We have two

“Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well” – The Venerable Richard Challoner

3D printers, a laser-cutter and a good range of traditional machines i.e. Pillar drills, Metal lathe, Milling machine, routing. We also have facilities for brazing, pewter casting, enameling, vacuum forming, and electronics among other processes.

Have you experienced staff teaching the course?

In the department we have been teaching A level DT for over 20 years. All our KS5 teachers have been teaching over 10 years at Richard Challoner in the subject of DT. We are all very experienced in the workshops, and all have a variety of backgrounds to help teach, support and inspire students.

How long has the current AQA specification been running/taught?

We started teaching the current specification in September 2017 with our first A level exams in Summer 2019. This is the same timeframe for schools nationally as this is when the “new specifications” were started.