

## GCSE Design and Technology – Pupil Feedback

### **Why did you opt to do GCSE Design and Technology?**

- I wanted to do GCSE DT because it's a creative course which allows you to create ideas and make them real things. It also shows the process of designing a product well and gives you information about different materials and processes.
- Taking GCSE DT was not something that I first considered in Years 7,8 and 9 because I didn't think I would be any good at it but the reason why I chose it was because I found myself constantly looking forward to the lessons in KS3. I loved being able to express myself creatively and design something new and a little bit weird and then make it in the workshop which is why I thought DT would be a good choice. Choosing what I found engaging and interesting absolutely paid off because I have thoroughly enjoyed DT and would recommend it to anyone thinking of taking it.
- Because I knew that in DT you get to do a variety of things including designing, using machines, and creating products which I knew I would be interested in doing. I also liked DT in general
- I chose DT because ever since year 7 I had really enjoyed it. It was different from other subjects and allows you to be creative and think in other ways.
- I was really interested in the design aspect as well as seeing my designs get made.
- As I really enjoyed DT at KS3 and really enjoyed designing and making my own products
- I chose DT because I wanted to do something practical.
- I chose to do DT because of how much I enjoyed it in KS3 and the freedom it gave with your ideas.

### **What do you enjoy most/find most interesting about the GCSE Design and Technology course?**

- I found learning about how things are made really interesting, it helps you understand and appreciate design a lot more. I also enjoyed being able to design products that can apply to real life situations.
- The highlight for me has been working in an environment with so many creatively minded people whose ideas are so different from each other - the course is a lot of fun and very rewarding at the end when you look back at all you have achieved at the end of year 11.
- The thing I found most interesting about the DT course was the amount of freedom we were allowed to have throughout. You can truly make whatever you want with whatever you want. It is also very rewarding seeing your design take shape through many iterations
- I enjoyed the most doing the Design Ventura project/competition. We got to work in groups and come up with our own product. After designing it and making it we pitched it to our class, and all voted on our favorites. The best would then be sent to the Design Ventura museum and entered into the next stage of the competition.
- The coursework is engaging and you can be independent in what you choose to design
- The variety of materials we get to use in the workshop and the wide range of practical work we do!
- I enjoy being in the workshop creating my design and being able to use and experiment with a variety of materials, machines and tools.

- The thing I find most interesting about DT is the coursework and how you have to go into detail when designing. I also find it interesting how I can use my knowledge from the theory work in my coursework too.

### **What do you find challenging about the course?**

- I think the most challenging thing about the course is the amount of things you need to remember. You don't really know what exactly will come up in exams so you need to know everything so you are prepared.
- Sometimes persevering when something goes wrong with your design or an idea doesn't work can be challenging but as long as you keep at it, you can produce something you are really proud of in the end.
- The course requires work to be done independently and outside of school since the projects we undertake are large in scale.
- The most challenging thing in my opinion is learning the content. Once you know it DT is easy however learning it and remembering it can be challenging as its all-new things that you most likely wouldn't have heard about before.
- probably the theory however as long as you understand it from the beginning it's more easier and less work to revise.
- The theory can sometimes be a lot to wrap your head around, but practice makes perfect!
- I the one thing that's challenging to me is the write up and being up to date on my work.
- I find some of the theory content challenging to understand however it's still really interesting and your teacher is there to help you with anything you don't understand fully.

### **What do you do in lessons?/Describe a typical GCSE Design and Technology lesson.**

- DT lessons have a relaxing and welcoming atmosphere. You do need to be independent, responsible and organised with your time and work but you also get lots of support. We usually look at some theory or work on the NEA coursework.
- A typical lesson is always engaging whether we are focusing on coursework, practical skills, or theory which we alternate between throughout the year. Most of our lessons are spent designing, prototyping, and evaluating an original product that we have created for our NEA (coursework) with the help of demonstrations, class brainstorming, and independent work.
- Depending on what type of lesson we have allocated each week activities can range from just making notes from textbooks to designing, sketching and rapid prototyping to using machinery such as laser cutters to create models. It is quite varied.
- In year 10 we started the lessons with a product of the week before carrying on with what we'd been leaning. This could be product making or doing theory. In year 11 at the start of the lesson we'd go over theory as revision before carrying on with our coursework.
- Either theory, working on coursework independently or making your design.
- In a typical lesson we often work on our coursework, either typing it up on a computer or physically working on prototypes in the workshop!
- Well some lessons are different, maybe for one half we are making designs then the other half we are writing up what we did. Each lesson is different in some way, your not always doing the same thing every lesson.

- In a typical DT lesson we would discuss the plan for the lesson then we would either focus on the theory work we need to cover as a class through various activities and methods. Or we would experiment with materials and machinery to help with the coursework. In year 11 we work on our coursework independently and our teacher is there if we need any help or have any questions.

### **What type of things do you do as homework?**

- Making revision resources or catching up on content.
- A lot of our homework is making revision resources for the theory element of the GCSE and continually working on our coursework which is great because we are always doing work at home which is directly related to our qualification and we can see the positive impact of the extra time we put in.
- Homework would include revising certain terminologies and learning about the properties of materials, doing drawing and sketching lessons or continuing with our projects however we like.
- Homework is normally theory based such as making flashcards.
- Researching and revising revision as well as coursework that needs to be completed.
- Coursework is sometimes set to be finished at home, in year 10 we completed flashcards on our theory knowledge for homework - which has really helped with my revision!
- As home work it might be stuff like adding some improvements to your work or researching something to do with your lesson.
- As homework we have to either make revision materials for the theory side or work on a particular part of the coursework that we've been set for that week/ time.

### **How are you assessed/tested?**

- You are assessed/tested by your coursework and the exam.
- 50% of our grade is taken from a theory paper which we sit at the end of year 11 after learning the content throughout the GCSE course and the other 50% is assessed through our Non- Exam Assessment/ Coursework where we take our own design from a simple stimulus from the exam board to an actual, working product.
- We are assessed every time we finish a new unit on the terminology of that unit using a website that Mr Went created. This makes the process smoother and more stress free. We also make sure to do a few practice mock papers in semi real exam test conditions although those are more rare.
- We often have tests on certain topics in the theory and we also do practice mocks and exam questions.
- coursework throughout the year and an exam at the end of year 11.
- The final GSCE is 50% coursework and 50% exam. However in class we are often given small tests to help our theory knowledge or past papers we go through as a class.
- It's 50% coursework (NEA) and 50% exam which is one 2 hour exam on all the theory content.