



The Cardinal Wiseman School
A Level courses 2026-28

Product Design

Careers

A-Level Product Design is a creative course with transferrable skills that is an excellent foundation for anybody considering careers within the Design Industry. This may include Architecture, Product Design, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Engineering and Careers in the Built Environment.

The course allows students to gain a core understanding of the design process, materials and industrial processes before specialising in when designing and making a substantial product.

Entry Requirements

6 x Level 9 to 4 GCSE passes including a 5 Maths, a 5 in Design & Technology is preferable.

This is a lively, motivational and challenging course which will allow students to express their flair and creativity through a whole range of practical and theoretical activities.

Students will study product analysis, product development as well as develop an understanding of contemporary design and technological practices and consider the uses and effects of new technologies and modern materials. Students are required to demonstrate their designing, making and evaluation skills through their chosen specialist Design & Technology area and will also be set various creative design challenges.

To study Product Design, students need to have to display flair and imagination, be prepared to talk openly about all things creative and present their ideas to others via a variety of media. Students need to be knowledgeable within the STEM subject areas as 15% of the written papers include mathematics questions.

A Level

NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT (NEA)

What is assessed?

Practical application of technical principles, designing and making principles

How is it assessed?

Substantial design and make project - 100 marks - 50% of A Level

Evidence

Written or digital design portfolio and photographic evidence of final prototype

PAPER 1

What is assessed?

Technical Principles

How is it assessed?

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes - 120 marks - 30% of A Level

Questions

Mixture of short and extended response

PAPER 2

What is assessed?

Designing and making Principles

How is it assessed?

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 80 marks - 20% of A Level

Questions

Mixture of short and extended response – Section A: Product Analysis (30 marks) – Section B Commercial Manufacture (50 marks)

“Imagination is more important than knowledge” Albert Einstein