

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

at SCGSG

Head of Department:
Mr J. Perks

AQA - Specification 8552

The course:

GCSE Design and Technology is an engaging and practical subject where creativity meets real-world problem-solving. In this course, you'll explore how problems are solved and how ideas are transformed into essential products and services that shape our everyday lives—from cutting-edge medical devices to sustainable solutions for global challenges.

This course is perfect for those who want to create rather than just study. You'll develop valuable workshop skills and gain hands-on experience with modern design technologies such as 3D printing, laser cutting, and computer-aided design (CAD)—skills that are in high demand in fields like medicine, engineering, dentistry, and biomedical sciences.



Component		Weighting
1	Written Exam	50%
2	Design and Make Project (Internally marked - NEA)	50%



GCSE and beyond...

Your journey through Design and Technology can take you to many exciting career pathways, such as:

- Biomedical Engineer
- Product Designer
- Ergonomics Engineer
- Surgeon

These career options allow you to apply your Design and Technology skills in ways that make a real impact on people's lives and contribute to advancements in healthcare.

Non-exam Assessment (NEA):

What is assessed?

Students choose from a range of real-world design challenges set by the exam board and follow an **iterative design process**—researching, sketching ideas, modelling, prototyping, and evaluating their final outcome. The project is assessed through an **electronic design portfolio and a final prototype**, demonstrating their understanding of materials, manufacturing processes, and user needs.

How is it assessed?

The work is assessed by your teacher and moderated by AQA. Marks are awarded for **investigating the problem, generating and developing ideas, realising the prototype, and evaluating the final product**. The NEA allows students to showcase their ingenuity and practical skills, making it a valuable experience for those interested in design, engineering, or creative industries.