Preparation and resources:

Teachers may wish to include images of past student projects and/or have an ex-student present to respond to questions from prospective students

Video links can be included in the presentation if facilities and time permit

Learning Objectives:

Describe what a GCSE in Design and Technology offers

Content:

The slides describe what a GCSE in Design and Technology might offer, the aptitudes suited to this field of study, possible future careers and a range of interesting design stories.

PowerPoint Guide: Options talk

**What is your big idea?**

Used as a welcome slide or as a starter activity: Allow 30 seconds for students to consider an invention/idea that would improve their lives/the lives of others. Take feedback where/if appropriate then introduce the skills and aptitudes that are suited to D&T GCSE.

**Why choose D&T?**

One popular estimate suggests that 65% of primary school students will be working in jobs that do not currently exist. Students with transferable skills will be prepared for an unpredictable future and will have the ability to innovate and respond to new challenges in a creative way.

D&T students will learn to communicate ideas, manage complex projects, generate creative resolutions to unexpected problems and address social/environmental issues.

The following slides showcase a range of interesting and inspirational design stories. The notes below give more information on the designs and the designers themselves.

**Drive change**

**A person wearing a suit and tie smiling at the camera

Description generated with very high confidence**Tesla was co-founded by entrepreneur and designer, Elon Musk. In 2016, Musk was ranked 21st on the Forbes list of *The World’s Most Powerful People*. Tesla’s integrated system of electric vehicles, solar panels and clean energy storage offers a renewable solution to conventional gas-powered vehicles. Musk’s other projects include the Hyperloop, a high-speed transport system and SpaceX, which is developing technology to establish the first human colony on Mars.

**Reinventing the wheel**

Industrial designer, Duncan Fitzsimons, is the founder and director of 7TH London, a design and invention studio. Fitzsimons developed the collapsible wheel design while studying at the Royal College of Art. The wheels are sold by Morph Wheels. Play the link video up to [1m30s].

Link video: Folding wheels

**Turn heads**

A person posing for the camera

Description generated with very high confidenceAfter studying at la Sorbonnes, Paris, Central St Martins, London, and the Design Academy, Eindhoven, Alix Marie Bizet became one of the Designers in Residence at the Design Museum (2016). Her work explores the social aspects of design with a focus on human behaviour. The Hair Matter(s) project looks at as an indicator to show social status and cultural background.

It also considers how looking at human hair as a material can raise the need to talk about diversity and visibility for all hair and individuals in society.

**Brighten someone’s day**

A person posing for a picture

Description generated with very high confidenceViviane Jaeger and Emma-Jayne Parkes met whilst studying at the London College of Fashion. In 2008, they founded SquidLondon which specialises in award-winning colour-changing rainwear for adults and kids.

**Light up lives**

Manchester based designers, Henry James and Bryn Morgan, designed the SM100 in response to a design brief from SolarAid. Their latest venture, Future Product, is a design consultancy aiming to “use design to make positive, systemic change, felt at a global scale.” Play the link video.

Link video: Solar light

**Save lives**

Kevlar was invented over 50 years ago by Stephanie Kwolek while working at DuPont Laboratories in Buffalo, New York. Kwolek says of her work, ["I don't think there's anything like saving someone's life to bring you satisfaction and happiness](https://www.sciencehistory.org/historical-profile/stephanie-l-kwolek).” Protective suits for the emergency services use Kevlar to give protection against high temperatures while allowing freedom of movement. This gives firefighters extra time to rescue victims and escape fires without injury.

The next slides demonstrate the scope of the subject in terms of human endeavour, exploration and the fundamental questions we face as a species.

**Course content**

Outline the split between project-based work and externally assessed exams and summarise the key skills and careers associated with D&T.

**Note:** Teacher can adapt this slide to their specific course to make it more relevant or change if the specific course has a different weighting between exam and NEA.

**What to know more?**

Point students to the Design Museum website for more information on the world of design. Many of the designs featured can be found in the Design Museum permanent collection and/or on the Design Museum website.