

# A LEVEL DESIGN



## WHAT IS DESIGN?

Everything you see around you has been designed, from a ball-point pen to a building, from a cup you drink out of, to the menu you read at a restaurant.

To be a designer allows you to create products and produce work, which addresses the problems of a design brief.

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY DESIGN?

If you enjoy designing and making, then this course gives you the opportunity to express yourself using a variety of different materials and

methods. You will have the chance to discover yourself as a designer and work out whether you prefer graphic communication or 3D methods. This will therefore see you experiment with a broad range of different design disciplines including illustration, architecture, advertising, textiles, fashion, product design, ceramics and interior design amongst many others. Design is a very 'hands-on' practical course and can be extremely rewarding. You may even decide that a career in design is for you.

## USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

You should have a keen interest in design generally and enjoy making and designing products. You will be introduced to both traditional ways of working, as well as challenging experimental approaches. You should enjoy visiting art and design galleries, to look at both historical as well as contemporary design work.

## COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

In the first year of the A Level course you will creatively explore a range of design disciplines. In the first instance you will be introduced to the design process and you will produce work through small exercises and design briefs. You will have the opportunity to explore graphic communication as well as 3-dimensional design processes before specialising in your chosen area of design.

On the course you will study design and designers from the contemporary as well as historical periods. You will have access to our modern well-resourced Applegarth studios and traditional design workshop; and you will also have access to computer aided design programs.

In the second year you will develop your skills further by producing more in-depth and ambitious work. Over the duration of the course you will be challenged with design problems and learn how to address these to produce sophisticated design solutions.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

All your work will be assessed by your subject tutor. At different times during the course you will be asked to hand in your work so that your progress can be monitored. You will receive feedback from your tutor, advising you on what to do to improve your grade. At the end on each topic you will submit your work for final assessment.

The course is made up of 2 components. Component 1 (60%) is the coursework component and here you will submit a sketchbook or digital portfolio and present final pieces for assessment. In the second year you will study Component 2 (40%), which is the externally set assignment, so you are given an exam paper with different projects to choose from. Following an initial period of preparation time in lessons, you will have a timed exam to complete a final piece. There is no revision as all the work is practical.

## **COURSE COMMITMENT**

We expect our students to be well motivated and enthusiastic. You must attend all lessons and never book holidays in term time as this can seriously affect your overall grade. Each week you will be given a homework task which will underpin and reinforce ideas explored in lessons. You will be expected to spend 4 hours on homework tasks each week. In addition to your lessons you will have access to the Art and Design studios in your Personal Study Periods. We encourage our students to accompany us on gallery visits, which in the past have included local, national, as well as international venues.

## **COURSE COSTS**

Art and Design can be an expensive subject to study. At Prior Pursglove College you will be given lots of materials free of charge. Depending on the art and design course you take these studio items include materials such as charcoal and pastels, paint, paper, card, clay, wood, plaster, photographic chemicals, sewing threads, calico, silk, batik wax, fabric dyes and inks. We ask students to contribute £20 towards the cost of materials as you begin your course in September; this enables us to cover some of the costs of the materials we supply to you. If you are enrolled on 2 or more art based subjects the cost will be capped at £30 per year. You will also have free access to SLR and digital cameras, computers, sewing machines, darkroom equipment and printing facilities.

## **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

For entry on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9) including an Art and Design or a Design based subject. If your G Score is below 4.00 a grade 4 in English Language is essential. To work out your G Score please go to the college website and click on the 16 – 18 tab and then entry requirements. If you are not sure how to work this out please get in touch and we will be more than happy to help.

## **PROGRESSION ROUTES**

Many students do decide that they would like to continue with their design studies at a higher level and there are a number of progression routes available to you. Many of our students go on to pursue design related careers and choose to study design at University. Courses can include product design, architecture, furniture design, industrial design, interior design, theatre and costume design, jewellery design, landscape design, graphics design, illustration, typography, advertising, etc.

## **STUDENT COMMENTS**

“Design is my favourite subject because it gives me creative freedom. I have enjoyed developing my skills as a designer and the working atmosphere in the studios has been great.”

“This course has given me a great deal of experience and I’ve loved the chance to experiment with different design subjects before choosing what I wanted to do. It’s given me a good view of how a career in design would work, and I have enjoyed the range of project briefs we have been given.”

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Jonathan Marshall or Holly Baggott on 01287 280800, or e-mail [j.marshall@pursglove.ac.uk](mailto:j.marshall@pursglove.ac.uk).

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision*

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