

Year 8 Design and Technology Vocabulary List

(Tier 2 and Tier 3)



Aesthetics – is a core design principle that defines a design’s pleasing qualities. In visual terms, aesthetics includes factors such as balance, colour, movement, pattern, scale, shape and visual weight.

Anthropometric – designers use anthropometric data to ensure that products are the correct size and shape for humans. They will look at published information gathered over time relating to the size, strength, weight and other physical characteristics of humans.

Client – the person who the product is being designed for or may use it. Also referred to as the customer.

Cost – the amount of money spent to produce the product including the price of the raw material, labour, manufacturing, packaging and transport.

Ergonomics– the study of people and their relationship with the environment around them. It often involves research into the way people interact with products and the environment. An ergonomic design will use anthropometric data to ensure that the product fits most humans and is easy and comfortable to use.

Function – the purpose of the product or the job that the product has been designed to do.

Materials– the physical substances that products are made from.

Manufacturing - is the creation or production of goods with the help of equipment, labour, machines, tools etc.

Safety – implications a designer has to consider to make a product safe to use.

Size – dimensions or measurements of a product in terms of length, width and height.

Vacuum Forming - is the process of heating a two-dimensional sheet of plastic and vacuum drawing it into a mould.