

Visit to The Design Museum



On Tuesday 15th May, a group of year 8 students visited The Design Museum in Kensington. After a train journey to London, we arrived

at the contemporary looking Design Museum. The first thing we all seemed to notice was the stunning architecture within the museum itself and the huge display which continuously transitioned from the words 'Designer', 'Maker' and 'User'.

We started off the day by looking through the 'Designer, Maker, User' exhibition. The exhibition explored the evolution of design and had many interesting displays, which helped us to understand how each role affects the production of an object. For example, a display of the evolution of computers and radios proved to be popular for many, showing us the huge advancement technology has made.

Another notable display was a compilation of 200 objects that were voted 'important' by the public and displayed to show the connections consumers have with everyday objects in their lives and how they shape us. This included a diverse variety of objects such as a £5 note, a pair of jeans, a hover board, a Bible, a typewriter and an IKEA bag.

We then attended a very informative workshop. We were first of all told to try and figure out what the strange looking objects on the table were. After a long time of discussing, sketching and thinking, we were finally told what each object did. One of the objects we found very smart, was a chewing gum disposer. After it has been used, the whole thing (including the gum) is then recycled and reused to make new products such as wellington boots. Another strange object was a metal alien/spider-looking object, which turned out to be a lemon squeezer, which the designer also said was designed to start conversations. This then led us on to identifying form from function and which one is more important in certain products.

We then finished off the workshop by choosing an everyday object and designing a strange, unique version of it, deciding ourselves whether form or function was most important in our design. After this, we headed to the gift shop quickly and were lucky enough to sit in the sunny Holland Park for an enjoyable lunch.

Zeynah & Amala, Year 8

Visit to The Design Museum (cont'd)



Budding year eight product designers visited The Design Museum during the spring term, as part of their Product Design studies; whilst Year 10 students enhanced their Design & Technology GCSE studies with an end of year visit.

Students enjoyed the museum's permanent exhibition 'Designer, Maker, User', and learnt about how a dialogue between these three key people underpins the creative design process. During the visit students gained an understanding of design from the perspectives of all three and learnt how designers respond to the needs of makers and users, how users consume and influence design, and how revolutions in technology and manufacturing transform our world.

Students participated in a 'Handling Collection' workshop that involved learning about products through handling and analysis. This required students to carry out product analysis; discuss and make observations; evaluate objects; draw objects and respond to a design brief. Through these thought-provoking activities, they learnt that it is the ability of the designer to understand our needs, both practical and emotional, which sets them apart from other creative professionals.

Beautiful weather allowed a picnic lunch in Holland Park, rounding off a great visit that everyone enjoyed.

The study of Design & Technology is a stepping stone into the creative sectors of architecture, engineering and design; if you are interested in studying Design & Technology at GCSE level please contact Mr Baines.

Mr Baines, Teacher of Product Design