

Teacher hints and tips

Design is all around us. The designs we use shape how we act and even think. Since their design dictates how products are produced, used and disposed of, design also shapes our impact on our planet.

What concepts do your students want to make real in their designs? Exploring these three core ideas will help students make the most of their creativity. They're also important criteria for entering our great competition!

HOW ARE STUDENTS RESPONDING TO THE DESIGN BRIEF?

Before they start sketching ideas, help students to put people first.

- Are their ideas delivering real improvements or changes in how people can use their product?
- What impact will their product have on people's lives compared to existing products?

Use the questions on the 'About design' stimulus sheet to explore what might be new or interesting about the Design Brief.

- How can students can make people's lives easier and better?
- What do they think matters most in this aspect of people's lives?

HOW ARE STUDENTS USING ALUMINIUM?

Students' choices of materials will influence their design's whole life cycle.

- How can using aluminium improve how their design will be made, used and disposed of at the end of its life?
- What other materials will students need to use to deliver the right properties and performance (such as natural materials, textiles or plastics)?

HOW ARE STUDENTS' DESIGNS SUSTAINABLE?

Sustainability isn't just about recycling. Use the 6 Rs on the 'Sustainability' stimulus sheet to inspire students' creativity.

- How do students' designs address sustainability at each stage in their product's lifecycle?
- Students entering the competition must explain how they have considered all six aspects of sustainability.

ENTERING OUR COMPETITION

Entering our competition is a great way to add extra motivation for your students.

Make sure students explore the sample entry on page 14. This shows the minimum information students should include.

Remind students that they need to address sustainability throughout the product's life cycle, from assembly or manufacture, through operation, to how its parts can be reused or recycled at the end of its life.

The three Challenge guides explain what students must demonstrate in their entries:

- An innovative solution to the problem
- Thoughtful use of aluminium and other sustainable, recyclable materials
- Inclusion of all of the 6 Rs of sustainability in their thinking and designs.

The student stimulus sheets expand on each of these areas and add ideas and questions that will get your students off to a great start.