Design & Technology Key Terminology

Key word A's	Definition
Adhesives	Types of glue.
Aesthetics	The features of a shape that makes it look good.
Alloys	Metals formed by mixing together two or more metals to produce a new metal that has improved properties.
Annealing	The softening of metal by heating to a specific temperature and then allowing to cool.
Anthropometrics	Measurements of the human body.

Key word B's	Definition
Biodegradable	A material that breaks down naturally with time. Sunlight, rain or bacteria could break down the material.
Buffed	Mechanically or hand polished to produce a high quality, shiny surface.

Key word C's	Definition
CAD	Computer-aided design
CAM	Computer– aided manufacture machines that are computer numerically controlled (CNC).
CE mark	A declaration by the manufacturer that their product meets the requirements of the applicable European Directives.
Client/ User/ Consumer profile	A description of the typical person or people who will use the product.
COSHH	Control of substances hazardous to health.

Key word D's	Definition
Datum edges	This is used to make all measurements from. It ensures accuracy and prevents errors accumulating.
Deburring	Removing the sharp edge from a piece of metal by drawing a file backwards and forwards.
Draw Filing	Smoothing the edge of metal of plastic by drawing a file backwards and forwards.

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Key word E's	Definition
Electrical circuit	A number of electrical components connected together to form a functioning electronic products.
Electrolysis	The process of coating a metal by placing it into a solution of electrolyte and passing an electric current from the donor metal to the parent metal.
Ergonomic	Something that has been designed to allow people to work efficiently by making it comfortable and user-friendly.

Key word F's	Definition
Fabrication	The joining together of pieces, whether or not they are the same material.
Ferrous	Group of metals that contain Iron.
Forging	A traditional process that uses a hammering action provided by either hand or from a machine to create a variety of shapes.
Form	Deals with the shape of the product.
Function	Deals with how the product works.

Key word G's	Definition
Galvanised	A coating of zinc applied to steel to stop it from rusting.

Key word H's	Definition
Hardwood	Timber that tends to be from slow growing, broad leafed trees.

Key word I's	Definition
Inclusive design	Designs that are accessible by all members of society.

Key word J's	Definition
Jig	An aid to fast, accurate and repeatable manufacturing operation.

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Key word K's	Definition
Keyed	Where a surface is roughened to improve the strength of a joint when two surfaces are stuck together.
Kitemark	The mark which shows that a product has been tested to meet international standards.
Knock down fittings	A component that allows rapid assembly and disassembly, without damage to the parts being joined or separated. The fitting often has two parts, with one screwing or locking into the other.

Key word L's	Definition
Laminating	The process of bonding two or more layers of material together to form a thicker and stronger section.
Landfill	A large hole in the ground that is filled with rubbish not being recycled.

Key word M's	Definition
Maintenance	Cleaning, adjusting, lubricating or replacing parts of a product to allow it to continue to function correctly.
Mechanical advantage	The way in which a machine makes things physically easier to do.
Mechanical properties	Properties of materials including strength, hardness, density, durability, toughness, brittleness, malleability, ductility and elasticity.

Key word N's	Definition
Nanotechnology	The technology used to rearrange individual atoms to create new, improved materials, systems and devices.
Non– ferrous	Group of metals that do not contain iron.

Key word O's	Definition
Obsolescence	Lack of appeal to consumers because something goes out of date and better products become available.
Ore	A solid, natural material from which metal can be extracted.

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Key word P's	Definition
Patent	These protect the features and processes that make things work. This lets the inventors profit from their inventions.
Physical properties	Properties of materials including fusibility, conductivity and environmental friendliness.
Polymorph	A smart material that is easily formed when heated, and solidifies when cooled.
Prototype	A model of a product that is used to test a design before it goes into production.

Key word Q's	Definition
Quality assurance	A complete system of quality control checks and procedures throughout the manufacture of a product.
Quality control	A check made to ensure that a component meets the specification, for example correct shape, size colour.

Key word R's	Definition
Rendering	Adding colour to a sketch to help show the materials and textures.

Key word S's	Definition
Softwood	Timber from quick growing conifers.
Sustainable	Something that can be replaced or reused/recycled indefinitely.
Sustainability	The ability to keep making or using a product without excessive damage to the environment.

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Key word T's	Definition
Thermochromic	Having the ability to change colour as the temperature is varied.
Thermoplastic	Become soft and pliable when heated and can be reheated as often as required. As they cool they set again.
Thermosetting plastic	Soft and pliable the first time they ae heated but a chemical change take place on cooling and they become rigid, non-flexible and cannot be reheated or changed.
Tolerance	The amount of error that can be allowed.

Key word U's	Definition
Unique	Something that is a one off.

Key word V's	Definition
Veneer	A thin section of timber that is cut from a log and then used to produce plywood, or is glued on top of a cheaper material.

Key word W's	Definition
Wasting	The mechanical removal of unwanted material by use of tools or machinery that use a cutting action.
Wood turning	A manufacturing method that uses specialist tools to shape wood that is being spun or rotated.
Work hardening	As a result of deformation of a metal there is an increase in hardness that may eventually cause fractures.