



Next steps



Once pupils have completed their GCSEs at Clare Mount, particularly in Design Technology, they have several next steps to consider. For some, this may include an **Entry Level programme in Construction at Clare Mount**, where they can continue to build confidence, develop practical workshop skills, and prepare for further study. Others may progress to a **college course**, with pathways ranging from **Entry Level through to Level 1 and Level 2 vocational courses** in areas such as Construction, Design Technology, Engineering, or Creative Design. These routes provide opportunities to explore specialist skills, gain recognised qualifications, and lay the foundation for future apprenticeships, higher-level study, or employment in related industries.

1. Apprenticeships / Work-Based Learning

Hands-on experience can be just as valuable as college:

- **Architectural Technician Apprenticeships** - Work with firms while gaining qualifications.
- **Engineering or Manufacturing Apprenticeships** - Work with CAD, electronics, or materials.
- **Furniture / Product Maker Apprenticeships** - Focus on woodworking, metalwork, or creative fabrication.
- **Construction / Site Technician Apprenticeships** - Combines design and practical building skills.

2. Short Courses / Skills Development

Boost your portfolio and skills with smaller, targeted courses:

- **CAD / CAM Advanced Courses** - SolidWorks, AutoCAD, Rhino, SketchUp.
- **3D Printing / Model Making** - Useful for architecture or product design.
- **Electronics / Arduino / Raspberry Pi** - Adds tech skills to your practical DT work.
- **Sustainable Design / Green Building** - Trending in architecture and product design.

3. Career Path Ideas

Depending on your interests, you could aim for:

- **Architect / Architectural Technician**
- **Product Designer / Industrial Designer**
- **Furniture Designer / Maker**
- **Electrical or Mechanical Engineer**
- **Interior Designer / Exhibition Designer**

Possible courses at local colleges

- **Entry level Art and Design**, there are no formal entry qualifications required to study at this level.
- **Level 2 course, Art and Design** You will need 4 GCSE's at Grade 3 or above. One of the 4 GCSE's to be Maths or English at Grade 3 (or Functional Skill level 1) to study at this level.
- **Level 3 course Art and Design** You will need 4 GCSE's at Grade 4 or above. One of the 4 GCSE's to be Maths or English at Grade 4 (or functional skill level 2) to study at this level.
- **A level Art and Design course 2 years**, Five GCSEs including Maths & English Language: a minimum of three GCSEs at Grade 4 and two GCSEs at Grade 5.
- **Aspiring Automotive Maintenance Professional**, there are no formal entry qualifications required to study at this level. Basic levels of literacy and numeracy are expected
- **Aspiring Professional - Brickwork** -There are no formal entry qualifications required to study at this level. Basic levels of literacy and numeracy are expected.
- **Aspiring Professional - Carpentry and Joinery** -There are no formal entry qualifications required to study at this level. Basic levels of literacy and numeracy are expected.
- **Diploma in Vehicle Inspection IMI Level 2**, You will need 4 GCSE's at Grade 3 or above. One of the 4 GCSE's to be Maths or English at Grade 3 (or Functional Skill level 1) to study at this level.
- **Bricklaying Diploma**- You will need 4 GCSE's at Grade 3 or above. One of the 4 GCSE's to be Maths or English at Grade 3 (or Functional Skill level 1) to study at this level.

<https://www.wmc.ac.uk/>

<https://www.bsfc.ac.uk/courses>

