Design Engineering

What is the difference between Product Design and Design Engineering?
Both courses broadly cover the Product Design content. The Design Engineering then has additional content: Robotics, Mechatronics and Electronics. There is more mathematics in the DE syllabus which includes the application of some scientific principles. Due to the additional content the DE course is harder as there is more ground to cover. If Robotics, Electronics or Mechatronics are not a specific interest students should consider PD as it is an easier route to the same qualification.

Can we have more details about the Computer Aided Design course?
The City and Guilds Parametric Modelling course Level 1 gives students the skills they need to undertake CAD tasks in course work and use the CAM machines like routers and 3D printers in the department. It is a competency based course which runs only in the first year and is completed as quickly as the students move through the syllabus. The fastest it has been completed is 6 weeks but normally takes until May. Students work independently through the tasks and complete 3 assessments.
The course is worth 8 UCAS points.

What are the course fees?
PD will be around £30-35 and DE £50. These cover materials in the first year, Soidworks license at home, Safety Goggles and a revision guide.

How many hours homework are set each week?
4.5 hours per week. Teachers in Design Technology will set 4.5 hours every week. Due to the hands on nature these courses require time to complete tasks and embed learning. Staff have shown that this higher level of workload promotes chances of students getting outstanding results.

Can I take both Product Design and Design Engineering together?
No. They are different routes to the same qualification though employers and universities will likely recognize the difference between them.

What support is available?
Design Engineering has a heavy workload and high expectations on students to stay motivated and organised. Staff are know for giving excellent feedback to students. We have an open door policy allowing students to attend outside of their lesson times. Throughout the week there are always 3 members of staff available to discuss issues with and help with design work.