The Design and Technology department at Torquay Boys’ Grammar School is a well-resourced and modern department. It comprises 4 fully equipped teaching areas 2 computer suites incorporating 2 laser cutters, and a technicians’ room.  One of the workshops is a dedicated sixth form engineering classroom that contains CNC machines and a 3D printer.

The department currently comprises 4 staff (two full-time teaching; one part-time teaching and one technician). Teaching staff currently deliver the full D & T curriculum to all year groups all of whom teach all year groups and cover all aspects of the curriculum.

Students have the opportunity to study a rich and challenging curriculum where they experience first-hand a range of techniques and processes through a series of design and make units. Digital technology is a key element in many of the units utilising CAD CAM to design, develop and manufacture as well as incorporating embedded micro controllers.

At KS3, students in years 7, 8 and 9 spend 4 hours, 4 hours and 3 hours respectively per fortnight in our department: the curriculum helps prepare students to be independent, critical thinkers who can adapt their knowledge and understanding to different design situations. There is a healthy uptake for GCSE Design and Technology (OCR J310) where students engage in challenging systems-based project work.  Pupils can progress further and take A’ level D & T (OCR Design Engineering H404 or Product Design H406). Throughout this course, students are given opportunities to become more independent learners to prepare them for their ongoing careers. The school is affiliated with Arkwright Engineering Scholarships programme and all Technology students in year 11 are encouraged to apply for this prestigious award.

The department has links with local high-tech industries and has played a leading role in developing schemes and resources in partnership with the Torbay Development Agency and the Hi Tech Forum for other schools in the area. It has also participated in competitive activities such as the Green Power Challenge; Student robotics, Bloodhound Model Rocket car challenge and British Schools Karting Championship.