



Design Technology Department Information

An Introduction to the Department

The department consists of a team of four (full-time equivalent) teachers, delivering Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials and a team of 1 full-time and 3 part-time technicians supporting students and staff across the department.

We believe that for students to lead happy, fulfilling and independent lives, they need to be given the tools to cope with challenge, change and failure. We encourage resilience by enabling students to manage risk and experience success, regardless of their academic strengths or personal circumstances. Students design and make products through a range of media, considering the needs of others in society. They learn an understanding of aesthetics, social and environmental issues, function and industrial practices.

Teaching

KS3 - all students study DT on a carousel basis, developing skills and knowledge in Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials. Students are taught in mixed ability groups of up to 20. Design & Make tasks allow for students to design and make for themselves, their families and the wider community. In preparation for KS4, students consider a range of design influences and consider scales of production. IT applications are incorporated into Schemes of work.

KS4

At KS4, GCSE exam courses are available in Design & Technology (Textiles and Product Design) and Food Preparation & Nutrition (AQA specifications). These are mixed ability groups, with 5 one-hour lessons per fortnight.

The department's results have been consistently high for the past number of years with 70% and above of students achieving grades 9-4. There is a strong ethos of continuing improvement and there is an expectation of high standards throughout the team.

Learning outside the Classroom – Enrichment Activities

There are a wide range of enrichment opportunities on offer including trips to manufacturing industries and design exhibitions, providing sources of inspiration for students. After-school clubs are also available across the department, including exam booster classes. We promote STEM opportunities, offer Ready Steady Cook challenges / Bake off competitions, and have a number of visiting speakers to help make links to the world of work.

Environment

Lessons are taught in the Art & Design / Design Technology block. There are specialist rooms to work with Electronics, Food, Textiles, Wood, Metals and Plastic. There is also IT provision within the department, including a laser cutter, 3D printers and CAD/CAM equipment.