

January 2023

Dear Colleague,

Teacher of D&T: Product Design

Thank you for your interest in this post. We require a full-time permanent teacher of Product Design to join our high achieving department.

Product Design is a real success story at Balcarras. There are 5 groups in Year 10, 4 in Year 11 and over 45 students studying the subject at A-level. We have recently expanded to 2 groups in Year 12 because of the popularity of the subject.

We are looking for a colleague to work across all key stages. Product Design is a dynamic and well respected subject in the school and we seek a teacher who will actively encourage students to pursue their interest in design. An ability to teach across Design Technology in either Food or Textiles would be an advantage.

Balcarras is an excellent place to teach. We have friendly staff, pupils who are keen to learn and supportive parents. We work in attractive buildings, superbly-equipped, on a beautiful site. We are both a teaching school and a maths hub, so professional development is one of our major strengths. The post is open to experienced and newly-qualified teachers and you will be assured of an excellent induction programme if appointed.

I hope that having read all the details and perused our website you will be keen to apply. Please submit your application by Wednesday 8th February at **9am**. We will then interview on Wednesday 15th February 2023.

I look forward very much to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Design and Technology department comprises five teachers, supported by two full-time technicians. The department occupies a suite of seven specialist rooms.

The department is highly successful at all key stages and makes a significant contribution to the overall success of the school. This includes a strong record in external examinations at both GCSE and Advanced Level. Standards are excellent as the result of a well-structured curriculum that is well taught. The Design & Technology department enjoys the respect of the school and is well supported by parents and governors.

There is excellent access to information technology; all computers within the department are linked to the school network and have access to the Internet through a high-speed broadband connection. CAD/CAM is embedded within the KS3 and KS4 curriculum.

A structured KS3 course ensures that all students experience the full range of design and technological activity. An induction course in year seven is followed by more in-depth activities where students are expected to work with a wide range of materials and components, including electronics. The department regularly monitors all aspects of the KS3 curriculum to ensure consistency of approach and delivery, and progress is tracked through a comprehensive recording system. The department works closely with feeder primaries.

At Key Stage 4, students have the opportunity to follow Design and Technology courses to examination level, and we currently offer D&T: Product Design (AQA) and D&T: Textiles (Eduqas) as well as Eduqas Food Preparation and Nutrition. ICT is an established element of GCSE courses and, in addition to the use of word-processing to aid the production of project portfolios, specialised software is used to develop design proposals and model practical solutions (CorelDraw and SpaceClaim). The department has adopted e-portfolios in product design and textiles.

Post-16, the department offers advanced level courses in D&T: Product Design (AQA) and Art and Design (Textiles) (AQA) as well as the Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition (WJEC).

The department has strong links with local industry, and designers and engineers regularly visit the department to talk to students. Students are encouraged to take part in local and national initiatives, and the department has a strong record of success in the following:

- The Arkwright Scholarship Scheme
- The National TDi Award
- Gloucestershire Schools Technology Award

Jenny Swanepoel
Head of Design & Technology

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