

Clarendon Academy Design and Technology Department Information for Applicants – January 2023

Clarendon Academy has a motivated DT department with a creative ethos and vision for the future. We are a strong team of multi-skilled professionals who teach across a range of subject specialisms. Our aim is to inspire students in design creativity; promote confidence in technical and making abilities and teach a broad and balanced curriculum of design and catering based knowledge, encouraging students to become innovative designers who are able to showcase a range of abilities and achieve brilliant results. If this seems like the sort of environment in which you would like to work, then I look forward to receiving your application.

Sarah Andrews
Head of Design and Technology

1. Department Structure

We are a supportive and collaborative department of 7 teachers at present, who teach across a range of disciplines in and in some cases out of the DT department. We have 3 specialist and experienced technicians, 2 full-time and 1 part time who support in individual subject areas.

We are currently developing and growing our well-established curriculum further by collaborating with secondary schools across the Acorn Trust. Ensuring that our curriculum stays fresh, engaging and relevant for our learners across KS3 and KS4. At KS4 we currently have the options of GCSE Design and Technology (AQA), Hospitality and Catering Level 1 and 2 (WJEC) and GCSE Textile Design (Eduqas), we have good student uptake and students perform well across DT. We are also delighted at the prospect of introducing Engineering at KS4 for our students and we have a fully skilled and trained technician in Engineering to support this course. There is also the potential for introduction of courses at KS5.

2. Professional Development

Clarendon Academy prides itself on the quality of the professional development opportunities it offers to both its own staff, and to others. We have a comprehensive ECT induction programme (previously known as NQT), including regular professional development, INSET meetings and training, and the allocation of a subject mentor (from the History Department) and a teaching 'buddy' (a recently qualified teacher from a different team within the school) to offer help and support during the first few months in teaching. All of the Faculty become involved in new staff training and we pride ourselves on giving them a very supportive environment in which to begin their teaching careers.

We are actively trying to upskill the literacy skills of our whole staff through CPD; we encourage all staff members to become involved in such opportunities because we value the skills and experiences of all our teachers.

We have a coaching culture within Clarendon Academy whereby teachers are encouraged to work on their own pedagogy and practice with the help of an assigned coach. The coaching process is an open-dialogue between colleagues and always something worked on collaboratively.

3. Curriculum

Key Stage 3

Our curriculum in Years 7-9 is designed to ensure that students emerge as skilled and knowledgeable designers and to prepare them for the challenges of GCSE and beyond. It is based around the iterative design process, where we encourage students to learn and discover through, exploring, designing, making and evaluating in a range of materials areas. We focus on three key skills – designing, making and knowledge– with every lesson focusing on one of these areas.

	Subject	Content
Year 7	Food	Students study the importance of a balanced diet, using the eat well plate to guide them. They also learn about basic food preparation considering the 4 C's: cook, clean, chill and cross-contamination.
	Textiles	Studying the artist Jon Burgerman, students explore through written and practical elements to design and make Jon Burgerman inspired plushie.
	Product Design	With a focus on timber and wood, students are introduced to a range of skills using hand tools, pillar drill and sanding machine to design and make their own hand held puzzle.
Year 8	Food	Students expand their repertoire of food preparation skills in year 8 by cooking increasingly more complex dishes; whilst considering the importance of hygiene and safety in the kitchen, including the prevention of food poisoning.
	Textiles	Students are introduced to the idea of incorporating electric LED components into textile products. Students expand on the range of decorative and construction techniques they have learnt in year 7 and how to use a simple electronic circuit to create a pencil case that lights up.
	Product Design	Students focus on Exploring a range of plastics; how they are made and how this can affect our environment; as well as viable alternatives. Students then focus on design in order to come up with ideas to create their own vacuum formed clock with vinyl decoration and clock mechanism.
Year 9	Food	Students will confidently apply healthy eating and food safety and hygiene practices in their cooking; whilst demonstrating a widening range of cooking and presentation skills.
	Textiles	Students create their own band patch for a music artist/band of their choice, using a range of hand stitching, dying, applique, foiling, fabric paints and crayons. The project is approached from an Art textiles perspective in readiness for GCSE Art textiles.
	Product Design	In year 9 students work through a project based around architectural design in, where they design their own super home. Students then work in cardboard to model their ideas as prototypes.

Key Stage 4

We study AQA GCSE Design and Technology at Key Stage 4. We are a very popular GCSE option.

4. Faculty Accommodation and Resources

The DT department resides within a specially facilitated block. We have 5 fully equipped workshops; 2 fully fitted teaching kitchens; a textiles classroom; multifunctional classroom and large IT suite.

Every unit in Years 7 to 11 is supported by a detailed teaching and learning overview, alongside a wide range of paper resources, PowerPoint presentations, and exemplar work. We are incredibly proud of the curriculum we have collaboratively created.

5. Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a range of afterschool activities on offer that change throughout the year, from KS3 Engineering club; KS3 Textiles Club and supportive catch up sessions for KS4 students. We are also looking to expand the experiences of our students by re-introducing relevant and engaging trips.

6. Further Information

What Sort of Person Do We Want?

The focus for our Department is firmly on 'teaching and learning', and looking at ways of improving and enhancing the learning experience our students receive. We are therefore looking, first and foremost, for an excellent classroom practitioner who can bring new ideas and approaches to the Department, who specialises in DT Product Design and Engineering. We will also require enthusiasm, hard work and a sense of humour. In return we will offer you support when you need it, excellent career progression and training, as well as a stimulating and vibrant working atmosphere.

If you are looking for a new challenge in a supportive environment with a like-minded team of professionals, then we would love to hear from you – and will look forward to meeting you at interview.