DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

THE TEAM /FACILITIES

We are a department comprising of six teaching staff supported by three technicians and an administration/learning support. We are a dynamic team who work closely together to offer a fully integrated programme across a wide range of Design & Technology specialists. We meet regularly for the sharing of ideas, best practice and the production of a wide range of teaching resources.

Accommodation in Newport Pagnell comprises two specialist purpose built Food rooms, two workshops, an Engineering workshop, and two multi-use computer rooms. At Olney Campus, there are three rooms: Food; Resistant Materials and a computer room. CAD/CAM and ICT facilities are available at each campus.

GROUPINGS

We teach mixed-ability groups at Key Stage 3. Students with special needs are supported by both the teacher and Learning Support Assistants. At KS4 students are banded within chosen subject options.

KEY STAGE 3

Students are taught one period a week in Year 7, and one period a week in Year 8. Areas of study include: Food and Design. A large percentage of students choose to study Design & Technology in Year 9. They are able to opt for either GCSE Food or Design Technology and are taught two periods a week.

KEY STAGE 4

KS4 Options include: AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, AQA GCSE Design Technology, WJEC Hospitality & Catering and OCR Engineering is only taught at the Newport Pagnell Campus due to the facilities available. Students are taught three periods a week.

POST-16

The department is currently offering 3 KS5 qualifications: A-Level AQA Design & Technology Product Design, Btec Level 3 National extended Engineering and WJEC Level 3 Applied Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition. Students are taught five periods a week, plus one allocated private study lesson.

STYLE

The team aims to develop creative thinking through a problem solving approach. Purposeful 'active learning' situations develop knowledge and understanding of the subject, enabling students to become independent learners to design and make effectively. We are an active Department working closely with STEM learning and local employers and The Design and Technology Association (DATA) to include real life learning. It is our belief that Design & Technology should be an enjoyable, creative learning experience undertaken in a safe working atmosphere and is a key subject for students to study preparing them with life skills and ready for the working world.

October 2021