**Design, Technology and Vocational**

**Department Information**

The Technology Department is a thriving, popular and well supported area of the school. The specialist rooms provide a dynamic environment that is extremely well equipped. The Department makes a major contribution to the life and ethos of the whole school. Technology is highly regarded by the students and is always one of the most popular subjects. In year 9 for example (first year of KS4) more than half of the cohort have opted for Technology or Vocational subjects.

Through the Technology department, students have the opportunity to participate in a range of lunchtime clubs, STEM competitions and primary liaison activities.

During KS3 students study Technology for three hours a fortnight. The department operates a rotation system where each student spends approximately fourteen lessons in each of four areas: Graphics, Resistant Materials with Systems & Control, Textiles Technology and Food.

The department offers GCSE AQA Design and Technology, WJEC Level1/2 Hospitality and Catering, BTEC Construction and a non examined course in Life Skills. Those taking one of these options will study the subject over five periods a fortnight. Students in Year 8 will take their options at the end of this year as the school has a three year Key Stage 4.

Excluding the head of department, the team consist of three full time specialist teachers and one vocational tutor delivering the subjects in KS3 and 4. There are also two technicians; one who supports the Graphics, Resistant Materials and Construction areas and one who supports food and Textiles.

Graphics is in an air-conditioned room which is equipped with 24 PCs with widescreen monitors. There are two A1 inkjet printers to help with the demands of printing NEA work. There is also a XYZ 3D printer. Resources for Graphics include a Canon digital SLR, a small lighting setup for recording project work and an excellent Epson A3 scanner. Software available includes CorelDRAW X5, the Adobe Design Suite, Fusion 360, 2D design, Microsoft Office and more. In addition, there is an A2 spray booth for work with adhesives and four A1 Rotatrims.

The main room for Resistant Materials is very well equipped for practical and computer based activities. There is an area for design drawing with 22 laptops, a Boxford CNC Denford Triac CNC milling machine and Roland CAMM1 vinyl cutter. There is also an A2 Laser Cuter. The practical area includes traditional benches, bandsaw, sander, morticer, fretsaw and pewter casting. The room also has a large metals area at the rear of the room with sand casting, welding, brazing, milling and turning equipment.

The Textiles room is a purpose built room with 11 laptops and other facilities including 11 sewing machines, 4 computerised embroidery machines, over lockers and a sublimation printer and an A4 colour laser printer.

The Food room is well resourced and benefits from an adjoining classroom which has ICT provision.

The vocational section has dedicated indoor and outdoor work areas and there is also a new purpose built, materials preparation area, storage area and separate technician office.