

Why is Design Technology Important?

'Design Technology is key in developing future engineers and designers who will 'drive our nation forward' (Budget speech, George Osborne).

Within lessons pupils work independently to creatively problem solve using cross-curricular knowledge and understanding. Maths, Science and IT play critical roles in the subject. Pupils are encouraged to engage in the wider world of design by understanding product development and modern technologies. The department is very keen on using Twitter, Pinterest and YouTube to further enrich the subject.



Summary of the Department

DT is a strong team of subject specialists led by Yvonne Dixon and assisted by Robert Brown who is responsible for Key Stage 3. We have seven subject-specific rooms, well equipped with traditional and modern CNC equipment. We encourage risk taking and creative problem solving which can all be seen at our annual 'Exhibition' where we celebrate pupils' work.

- Yvonne Dixon – Curriculum Lead
- Rob Brown – 2nd in Dept. and KS3 lead
- Mark Humble
- Eireanne McKenna
- Danielle Twentyman
- Lesley Clementson
- Miriam Stewart – CSTA
- John Prosser – CSTA

The Department and Social Networking

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How Does it Link to the Local Community?

Always keen to place Design and Technology in context, the DT team invite professionals from the locality into school to engage and enrich the subject. Food Technology students admirably provide the catering for the Senior Citizens' tea parties and our annual Exhibition.

Key Stage 3

The umbrella of Design and Technology holds within it distinct subjects. These are taught in a rotation programme throughout Years 7 and 8. Specifically Food, Textiles, Product Design, Resistant Materials and Mechanisms. DT is categorised within school as being part of the Creative Curriculum therefore pupils studying DT in year 9 will have selected one or more DT specialist areas within the option process.

Key Stage 4

We offer five GCSE subjects following the distinct areas of study:

- DT with specialisms within Textiles, Resistant Materials and Product Design.
- Food Preparation & Nutrition

Students all design and make products worth 50% of the course. A final exam on theory makes up the other 50%.

Key Stage 5

Two courses at A Level are offered:

- Textiles
- Product Design

A 2 year course where students complete multiple design and make products in year 12 to build knowledge and understanding and then a single Design and Make in year 13. Exams are an important part of all subjects with 50% of each qualification coming from the understanding of theory.

We are very pleased with the uptake of A Level and see pupils every year leaving to follow Design and Engineering qualifications.

Learning Outside the Classroom

As a thriving subject it is important to keep up to date with developments, therefore we organise trips to national events for each discipline (ie. The Clothes Show, The Good Food Show and Grand Designs). We also take part in national and local competitions, where success has allowed us to engage pupils further.

Local designers and professional are invited in to support in the classroom or local trips are organised to see Design and Technology in context.

Thank you to all those volunteers for your support. If you would like to support us further or know of anyone else who may be of help please contact Yvonne Dixon.