

DT Department Curriculum Policy

Introduction

In Design & Technology our vision is that we want our students to be able to learn the fundamental life skills that they learn in the practical skill based lessons, and have the knowledge to inform them. In general the life skills that we all take for granted how to iron, sew, cook, use a saw, measure, weigh etc all are taught in Design & Technology. In Food for example, they learn to make sensible decisions in food choices with the importance of healthy eating, nutrition and general food knowledge. There is a key focus on health and safety in all subjects both at KS3 and KS4. As we are an Option subject students are taught in years 7, 8 and 9 learn the core knowledge and the relevant practical skills we believe are key even if they do not progress on to key stage 4 courses.

In Design & Technology students develop designing and making skills, learn about computing, industry, materials and specialist equipment. They develop business skills that are transferable across many different careers which include problem solving, innovation and team work.

Knowledge in DT

In Design & Technology students learn the core knowledge based on the National Curriculum. We aim that students will be able to build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills to:

- Design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users.
- Be able to critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products of others.
- Understand and apply the principles of nutrition and learn how to cook.

Students work within three areas each year: textiles, food and nutrition and product design taught by specialist staff.

In Design & Technology core knowledge is revisited through the student's journey from year 7 to year 11. There are numerous core non specialist topics that we teach for example the design process. Hinterland examples include topics such as healthy eating and the effects of obesity and links to energy drinks, recycling and the global issues on plastics, textile sweat shops, fairtrade and social and moral issues.

Key stage 4

Students have the choice in their options to do either GCSE Engineering, GCSE Food and Nutrition and GCSE Design and Technology, all are taught by specialist staff. Subject content is delivered through each subjects specification from the chosen exam board, at present we are using the following: GCSE Engineering OCR, GCSE Food and Nutrition WJEC, GCSE Design and Technology AQA.