Design Technology Department

Staffing 2017-18
Mrs Virginia Adams   Head of Department
Ms Helen Beddowes   Teacher of DT and Art
Mrs Rosemary Parker   Teacher of DT (part time)
Mr John Coleman   DT technician

Design technology is taught as a discrete subject in Key Stages 3 with GCSE options in Food and Nutrition alongside Design Technology GCSE (Textiles focus).

Facilities
The department has dedicated use of three practical rooms and one smaller general teaching room. These include a dedicated recently re-furbished Food room, a classroom currently fitted out for the teaching of Textiles, and a third fitted with equipment for the teaching of aspects of Resistant Materials. All classrooms in the school are equipped with data projectors and there are interactive whiteboards in some rooms depending on departmental requirements. All staff are provided with a laptop. A wide range of software is available on computers including Microsoft Office 2013, which will soon be updated to Microsoft Office 2016. Moodle VLE is available for all departments and students to use. All staff and students have their own Google account providing access to Gmail, Google Drive and Google Classroom. Computer facilities are made available to students during lunchtimes.

External Examinations
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is a popular option with AQA 8585 certificating for the first time this summer. Previous results have been excellent. GCSE Design Technology has traditionally focussed on Textiles and the last entry for AQA 4572 will be this summer with a Yr 10 group currently on the new course. Results in this area have been mixed although improved last year.

Timetable
Computing is compulsory for all KS3 students. We operate a fortnightly timetable and the structure is changing for September 2018. Two form groups are split across three concurrent teaching groups operating a rotation around three disciplines throughout the academic year. This maintains reasonable class sizes for the practical elements of the course. Thus, there are always three staff on at any one time.
KS4 will have 5 x 50 min lessons a fortnight from September.

Accommodation
Lessons are taught in one of the dedicated DT rooms, which all have Projectors, access to printers, including A3 and support from a full time technician.

Courses Taught
Schemes of learning are written in line with National Curriculum and examination board specification requirements. Our aim is to provide a high quality education that equips students to develop into increasingly independent & discerning learners.
Currently, due to the experience of teaching staff, the curriculum has been designed around three areas of Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials. The Food element will stay as a third of the teaching load, however, we are looking for a vision to develop the other two thirds of the course, hopefully incorporating electronics, graphic design, CAD. The school is prepared to invest in this development.
At KS4 we foresee the continuation of a separate Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE, but wish to see a wider choice of Design Technology foci, perhaps working alongside our fellow schools in the Academy Trust. Ultimately we wish to see our students able to access Post 16 Product Design courses.

Further Information
During the first year in post there will be additional non-contact time to recognise the work involved in moving this department forward. The Food teaching will continue to be delivered by experienced staff, whilst there will be an additional part time DT teacher to be recruited to support this development work and delivery.

This is a unique opportunity for a dynamic, energetic and forward thinking leader to have considerable impact on an area of the school curriculum, with potential to work collaboratively across the Academy Trust on curriculum design and to gain experience for future leadership progression.

J Kendall
Deputy Head
April 2018