



Gordon's School Technology Department

Introduction

The Design & Technology Department consists of three full time staff members, including the head of department, a subject teacher and an experienced technician. Both teachers are required to teach across all key stages. The Technology Department teaches across two well-equipped workshops with a variety of traditional and modern machines and equipment. All students study Technology as part of KS3 with many pupils opting to continue Design & Technology at GCSE and Product Design A Level. At KS3, students will undertake a range of exciting projects, which underpin the key pillars of Design & Technology, as outlined by the National Curriculum, of Design, Make, Evaluate, Technical Knowledge and Health and Safety. Students progress from KS3 with a grounding in theory, and a broad range of skills in areas such as 2D and 3D CAD, sketching, prototyping and modelling, iteration, creative problem solving and traditional workshop skills such as wood and metalwork.

GCSE & A Level Specifications

We use the AQA board at GCSE Design and Technology (8552). Students are required to complete a self-directed NEA (non-exam assessment) in line with one of the three contextual challenges released by AQA each June and sit a 2h theory exam worth 50% of the GCSE. Students are required to spot problems within one of the given contexts and solve their identified problem with technology and materials through testing, prototyping and evaluation in an iterative manner. The authenticity of the design process is key with students testing their ideas with third parties and against their own specifications, to inform further iteration and to ultimately produce a high-fidelity outcome / prototype.

At A Level, we follow the AQA Product Design specification (7552). Students are free to choose their own design problem to solve for their NEA worth 50% of the course. They will sit 2 exams: Paper 1 tests Technical Principles over 2.5h and makes up 30% of the A Level; and Paper 2 tests Designing and Making Principles in a 1.5h exam to make up the final 20% of the course.

The current cohort at KS4 consists of two classes of year 10, and two classes of year 11. The KS5 cohort consists of one class of year 12, and one class of year 13.

Extra-curricular activities

Each year, a variety of technology-based activities take place including trips and visits to locations such as The Design Museum and The Mini Factory.

Many cross-curricular links have been established, including with Science, Maths and Computer Science as part of STEM.