

Why we teach Design & Technology

Design and Technology (D&T) is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject that prepares all young people to live and work in the designed and made world.

Design and Technology provides students a platform to develop problem-solving skills and to grow in confidence: Taking creative risks and learning from their mistakes supports students to build resilience. The subject also provides students with the skills to become independent learners and problem solvers.

Design and Technology builds on the skills and knowledge pupils have already learnt at primary school. It leverages increasingly sophisticated resources, including dedicated teaching environments, manufacturing equipment and specialist teaching. Most of our teachers have backgrounds within industry, from Fashion and Textile design, to Architecture, which helps to support teaching students about the breadth of career options this subject can offer.

In Year 7 & Year 8, students follow a carousel learning about product design and electronics, textiles and food while rotating to specialised classrooms. In Year 9, students have the opportunity to focus on specific aspects of the subject choosing between product design, food technology, textiles and graphics. This allows students to focus on developing more technical skill in their chosen area, however, at its core is creativity and imagination. Students learn to design and make products that solve genuine, relevant problems within different contexts whilst considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. To do this effectively, they will acquire a broad range of subject knowledge and draw on additional disciplines such as mathematics, science, engineering, computing and art.

Throughout the curriculum, students will have the opportunity to take part in extracurricular events. We have forged strong links with the local community and many A-level students have taken on work placements in the borough with local fashion designers and artists. Trips have included exhibitions at the V&A, the Knit & Stitch Show, and Secret Cinema: Costume and set design visits, as well as visits to local architecture studios. Past students have gone onto study at Ravensbourne, Kingston and London College of Fashion.