

Students Work



We use a variety of learning methods while aiming for students to be involved in practical work for as much time as possible. At Key Stage 3 assessment takes place during and after each project, there are no formal tests or exams.



Students Comments



"I really enjoyed designing and making my copper ring".

"The best bit of D & T is the practical work".

"It's good having a finished product at the end of the project".

"I felt really proud of my achievement when I finished the wooden box".

"Textiles is great, the things you make you can take home and actually use".

D & T Department

Miss H Bowman (Curriculum Leader),
Mrs H Fowler, Mrs A Pannell (Lead Practitioner for Food), Mrs C Draper, Ms S Martin, Miss A Hewitt
Mrs T Pott & Mrs C Draper



DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Design and Technology department currently consists of a team of specialist teachers, with 2 part time technicians, working from a purpose built suite of three rooms (woodwork, metalwork and graphics), as well as two Food rooms and two Textile rooms. The rooms are situated close to each other and to ICT rooms.

Staff work as a team where all input is valued and everyone is involved in the planning and delivery of a challenging KS3 curriculum, leading on to GCSE and AS/A2 Level.



St Albans Girls' School
Specialist Business and Enterprise Academy



Key Stage 3

D & T is taught for 1 or 2 hours a week in small mixed ability sets of between 17 and 22. In Year 7, 1 hour per week is divided between Resistant Materials and Food and Textiles over the year. In Year 8, we currently organise the timetable so that pupils are taught for two consecutive hours; Resistant Materials is taught for half the year and Food and Textiles for the remainder. In Year 9, students study 3 areas in more depth. The KS3 curriculum currently includes the following projects:



Healthy Eating
Aluminium animals
LED novelties
Graphics
Pyjama trousers
Cultural foods

Cushion cover
Clocks
Cereal snack
Wooden stool
Bags



STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are an important part of the technology curriculum taught here at STAGS. There are a number of opportunities to participate in STEM events and competitions held in the local area such as the Robot Rumble and the Herts Rotary Club Technology tournament. UK is the 6th largest manufacturer in the world. Engineering turnover is valued at £800 billion per year. STEM graduates have the potential to earn the highest paid roles in the UK. Therefore we feel it is very important to promote and support students in developing their knowledge, understanding and participation in STEM activities.

Key Stage 4 and 5



At GCSE students can opt to follow a full course in D & T, choosing from Food, Product Design or Textiles. We follow the AQA specifications, which include 45 hours of controlled assessment on a major design and make project, accounting for 60% of the final mark.

Students learn as far as possible through practical experience and undertake a variety of projects in Year 10 to learn new knowledge and techniques. Year 11 is spent developing coursework and practising exam skills. Regular assessments are carried out and targets set and discussed with the students. Our results are always excellent, with STAGS students gaining grades well above the national average.

We offer AS and A2 Level courses in Year 12/13. These follow the AQA specification in D & T: Product Design and students can specialise in Resistant Materials, Textiles, Food or Graphic Products.

Extra Curricular Activities



One measure of the Design and Technology department's commitment to students is the amount of time made available for extra study and practical work outside of school hours. The department offers support during most lunchtimes for all students studying D & T and girls are encouraged to use this time to develop practical work or ask for help with homework and coursework.

There are also some lunchtime clubs, including a Year 7 woodwork and Textiles club. In addition the rooms are often available to senior students after school as required.

The department offers some trips and visits during all Key Stages, as well as trying to invite visitors into school or incorporate competitions to encourage business and enterprise. For example we have run a Product Design visit to the Building Research Establishment, a textiles trip to the Clothes Show Live, entered Rotary Club Food and Technology competitions, taken part in a Year 8 Robot Rumble competition and run Year 8 and 9 Design and Technology days.