**DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The department believes that success is based on the expertise being developed by our students through the quality of teaching and learning. Skills and knowledge are developed via appropriate ‘design and make’ activities. Students are encouraged to think independently, analyse, research information and take a highly creative and innovative approach when designing and making. As a group of staff we seek to support, stimulate and challenge students through individual and group learning. We seek to develop an awareness of the social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of our society in preparing our students to continue in further education or employment.

We believe that our approach to KS3 project work is tailored and differentiated to embrace the National Curriculum and as a result is specific in targeting its sub levels, whilst still remaining innovative and creative. Our KS4 project work has been extremely successful, promotes progress and has been designed to motivate and encourage the students, to raise achievement and to break down the coursework into more measured and specific tasks. The system has been approved by the AQA exam board.

Our KS5 course continues to gain popularity with our own students and external candidates, our results are within the top 10% of the country and many of our students go on to study design related subjects at university. Some of our A2 students have been able to secure placements at Tom Dixon, Studio Conran and have been invited to present ideas to Prada in Milan.