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| **Design Technology - Department Description** |

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| **Information for Applicants** |
| Brooke Weston Academy is an innovative, nationally acclaimed educational establishment. Our philosophy and approach is embedded in student-centred learning, underpinned by a structured framework of assessment that has differentiation and personalisation at its heart. Opened in 1991, Brooke Weston Academy has consistently appeared in the top rank of state comprehensive schools. On average this year 90% in Year 11 achieved five or more GCSEs graded A\* - C with 21% gaining A\*/A grades. 84% of students in year 11 achieved five or more GCSEs graded A\* - C including maths and English. 48% of students achieved the English Baccalaureate. In Year 13 students achieved 98% pass rate with 61% gaining A\*/A or B grades.  Brooke Weston Academy has exceptionally high standards and works hard to preserve the ethos, which places the student at the heart of the learning experience. Our OfSTED report of January 2011 confirmed Brooke Weston Academy’s outstanding reputation and highlighted, amongst other aspects, the positive relationships between staff and students and the outstanding learning opportunities available. |
| **The Departmental Structure** |
| The Design and Technology department consists of a team of 4 teachers and two technicians and is housed in a purpose built suite of workshops and design studios, which are equipped for working in the full range of design and technology disciplines including product design, resistant materials, CAD/CAM, systems and control and electronics. This is complemented by a purpose built Food Technology facility, which is a key component of a £4m Creative and Digital Arts wing. ICT facilities are also available to students within the department where they can access industry standard software and CAD / CAM facilities to support their designing and making. |
| **Teaching and Learning** |
| Students are taught in mixed ability groups throughout all Key Stages. Students are involved in their own learning, being provided with programmes of study at the beginning of each term. Their work is carefully monitored and assessed regularly to help with target setting and further development. A variety of teaching styles are utilised within the department, keeping the student at the centre of learning. |
| **Courses** |
| Students follow a progressive modular learning route at Key Stage 3, in which they cover the National Curriculum programmes of study via a range of product analysis exercises, focused practical tasks and integrated design and make assignments. All modules are differentiated according to the Brooke Weston differentiation framework, and students choose which route they wish to follow through these modules working in partnership with their teachers to achieve high quality outcomes.  At KS4 the department offers AQA GCSE Product Design, AQA GCSE Textiles and AQA Food Technology. The quality of student work in all areas is of the highest standard; and the department works in a variety of innovative ways to ensure that students are provided with the means to achieve success. To this end, students have access to a large range of study material, exemplar coursework and knowledge testing which the department has developed to assist students with coursework and examination preparation.  The department has plans to expand its Post 16 offering to complement the existing AQA Product Design (3D) with AQA Food Technology. Year 12 students are given the opportunity to experience real life design and engineering situations through the Engineering Education Scheme and successful participants can attain a CREST gold award for their efforts. The department also has links with a range of local companies who support our students with their project throughout all Key Stages. |