

CHARLES DICKENS SCHOOL - DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Facilities

The Department of Design and Technology is comprised of two workshops/teaching rooms for Product Design/Resistant Materials and Graphics, a further teaching room equipped for Textiles and Food Technology Room. In addition to these, there is a technician's preparation room/storage area, for the two workshops and a preparation/storage room for Food Technology. The department also has an office for the use of the Department team, which is located within the Graphics teaching room.

All teaching areas have access to laptops; and four computers in the Textiles room. An A3 colour printer and photocopier is located within the Graphics teaching room for department use. Product Design equipment includes a laser cutter, 3D printer, sublimation printing system, CNC Router and a CAM vinyl cutter/plotter. Food Technology equipment includes nine ovens and a low-level practical area.

The department employs a full time technician who supports Product Design/Textiles and a full time Food Technician.

Key Stage 3

KS3 (yrs7 & 8) Design and Technology is delivered through three 60 minute lessons per fortnight, and homework is set in 2 of those lessons. Within the department, there are currently 5 rotations every 8 weeks, consisting of Drama, Food Technology, Resistant Materials, Graphics and Textiles. We follow the Design and Technology national curriculum and the learning is supported by a wide range of practical activities, ICT, interactive and printed resources, ensuring that a variety of activities is offered to suit every type of learner. Work set is largely project based using problem solving design and making tasks.

By the end of KS3 we expect the majority of our students to achieve at least a grade 4, while the most able students should be reaching a grade 5. Students are rewarded through the awarding of CDS points, in line with whole School policy at KS3.

Key Stage 4

Design and Technology is optional at Key stage 4. At present, we offer GCSE Resistant Materials, Graphics and Food technology. From September 2017, we are proud to offer Hospitality and Catering, Design Technology and Design Engineer Construct. The time allocation for KS4 is four 60 minute lessons per fortnight.

We currently follow the AQA examination board. The two assessment areas are a Controlled Assessment task (60%) involving a major project with a practical design solution and design folio as the coursework focus, with a written examination (40 %) at the end of Key stage 4. Typical topics at GCSE Resistant Materials might include a themed lighting product; GCSE Graphics is themed on board games and promotional packaging and in Food Technology a food product themed to a culture. The controlled assessments are carried out over the second year of study, with the written examination at the end of the second year of study.

September 2017 will see the GCSE Specifications and Assessment Criteria change. The controlled assessment task will be worth 50%, involve a major project with a practical design solution and design folio as the coursework focus. The written examination will also be worth 50 % at the end of Key stage 4. The focus has shifted to include a deeper knowledge and understanding of materials and industrial processes. More emphasis and links to Science and Mathematical have also be written into the specification. The controlled assessments are carried out over the second year of study, with the written examination at the end of the second year of study.