**ART & TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

**OVERVIEW**

Art and Design & Technology is an exciting department at Northwood School. Art, Food, Textiles, Electronics, Product Design and Resistant Materials are delivered at KS3 and GCSEs in Art, Food and Product Design are taught at KS4. Our vision for the future is to ensure all sectors of Art and D&T are taught at KS4 and KS5 in Northwood School.

The Department frequently contributes to extra-curricular activities. Our Art students currently have their work displayed at a local station. We are currently training our Engineering group for the F1 in Schools competition, and we run a D&T club at KS3 to allow pupils to design and make mini projects after school. We also run cookery and textiles club once a week.

The Department supports school events in many ways including catering, support with stage backdrops and scenery, sign making, enterprise activities and many more. We recently worked with the Moor Park Fine Arts Society where KS3 pupils designed their own glass tiles to create a large Mondrian leaded glass for the new school building. We have good links with local schools where we are welcome to share ideas and facilities.

**STAFFING AND RESOURCES**

The Department consists of three specialist members of staff - one Art, one Food/Textiles and one Product Design. We are very comfortable teaching other subjects if needed at KS3, however we usually stick to our specialisms which means we can teach our pupils in depth knowledge before they choose their GCSEs.

We are fortunate to have two specialist technicians working within the department to support the delivery of lessons, maintain resources and contribute to extra-curricular activities. One technician supports with Resistant Materials, Electronics and Product Design, and the other supports with Textiles, Food and Art.

We have moved to a new school which consists of three dedicated Art rooms, 2 well equipped workshops, one for Product Design/Resistant Materials and the other for Engineering. The Product Design/Resistant Materials room has a variety of new machines such as 3 Hegner saws, 3 pillar drills, 2 sanders, a bandsaw, a thermoforming centre and a spray booth. The Engineering room doubles up as a graphic suite where pupils can design and make their own PCBs in the future. This room also has a welding corner, brazing hearth, casting, milling and work benches. We are fully equipped for the future in case we wish to introduce new Art or D&T courses in the future.

In addition, we have another large graphics suite with the best computers, one large food room with brand new appliances, one textiles room with 20 sewing machines, an electronic embroidery machine and sublimation printer. There is also a CAD/CAM room which consists of the latest technologies such as a 3D printer, a CNC router and laser cutter.

**TEACHING GROUPS AND COURSES**

Pupils are taught in mixed ability groups of no more than 20 throughout the D&T department. Pupils have two lessons each week in KS3. We teach KS3 D&T on a carousel where each group rotates four times every 11 weeks so pupils can experience different design and make activities in Food, Textiles, Product Design or Electronics each year. Pupils work from printed booklets which involve a mixture of practical and theory work with the emphasis on design and problem solving.

The School start KS4 courses at the beginning of Year 9 and pupils have 2 lessons each week where they are learning a range of skills through a variety of different miniature projects. There are currently three Product Design/Resistant Materials groups, one Art and one Food group.