



Gordon's School

Technology Department

Introduction

The Technology Department consists of 3 teachers including the Head of Department, a SCITT and we have technician 4.5 days per week. The Technology Department teaches across a fully equipped workshop and dedicated studio classroom with laptops and interactive whiteboards in each. All students study Technology as part of KS3 with many pupils opting to continue Design & Technology at GCSE and Product Design A Level. The KS3 schemes of work focus on offering students autonomy and arming them with creative strategies to effectively problem solve. Students are also given a grounding in a range of workshop skills and equipment.

GCSE & A Level Specifications

We use the AQA board at GCSE Design and Technology (8552). Students are required to complete a self-directed NEA (non-exam assessment) in line with one of the three contextual challenges released by AQA each June and sit a 1.5h theory exam worth 50% of the GCSE. Students are required to spot problems within one of the given contexts and solve their identified problem with technology and materials through testing, prototyping and evaluation in an iterative manner. The authenticity of the design process is key with students testing their ideas with third parties and against their own specifications to inform further iteration and to ultimately produce a high fidelity outcome/ prototype.

At A Level we follow the AQA Product Design specification (7552). Students are free to choose their own design problem to solve for their NEA worth 50% of the course. They will sit 2 exams: Paper 1 tests Technical Principles over 2.5h and makes up 30% of the A Level; and Paper 2 tests Designing and Making Principles in a 1.5h exam to make up the final 20% of the course.

Examination results

Examination results in the Technology Department have been consistently high for a number of years. In 2021 the department gained 47% 9-7, and are in the top 5% for progress attaining ALPS 2.

At A Level the department attained 86% A*-A and 100% A*-B. For A Level the department attained ALPS 1 making them in the top 1% for progress nationally.

These results reflect the academic nature of the department and the high expectations placed upon both our staff and students.

Extra-curricular activities

Each year, a variety of technology based activities take place including trips and visits.

The department runs a D&T club where students produce outcomes to enter into national competitions.

Many cross curricular links have been established including with Science, Maths and Computer Science as part of STEM.