

Tring School

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY

OVERVIEW

Design and Technology at Tring School is a vibrant, supportive and enthusiastic area, striving to become an outstanding department. Our aim is to foster and support independent learners who are creative designers and skilled craftspeople. We encourage students to develop understanding in all areas by working towards varied design briefs. We aim to do this in an exciting, challenging and dynamic way, which constantly challenges and stretches pupils of all abilities.

STAFFING

The department consists of three full-time D&T specialists and five part-time specialists many of whom are confident when working outside their specialism at KS3. In addition to teaching staff, we have one full time technician who is a workshop specialist as well as two who work part time in the Food/Textiles areas.

DESIGN and TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES

The department has eleven specialist rooms, ten of which are teaching rooms and the twelfth is a CAM facility. There are three workshops each of which are fitted for slightly different roles; one for wood, one for construction and one for metal/engineering. We have an electronics room and two Graphics rooms, one of which is also used as a second Textiles room. There is a dedicated sixth form area, where KS5 students are encouraged to work during non contact time. We have two fully equipped Food rooms and a Textiles room which includes industrial machines. Finally, we have our own ICT suite which includes the specialist D&T programs that we regularly use.

All our rooms include a wide range of modern tools and equipment and are equipped to teach groups of 20 students. There is a separate CAM area which includes CNC machines, a laser cutter, a 3D printer and a sublimation printer which small groups of students are encouraged to use.

CURRICULUM

KS3

In Years 7 and 8 we teach students on a carousel system. There are five areas and students spend approximately six weeks in each, giving them 12 hours in which to complete each Design Brief. The areas in which we currently teach are CAD/CAM, Food, Graphics, Product design and Textiles, and the topics move them forward during the course of the years. In Year 9, students opt for two of the specialist areas, and then study in them for the whole year; approximately 36 hours of teaching. This enables students to narrow their choices prior to choosing their GCSEs. The topics we teach are constantly evolving in order

to develop further and ensure that our students receive the best possible experience in Design and Technology.

KS4

We offer both BTEC and GCSE courses at KS4; students have a free choice although we do advise some to ensure the choices made are suitable for each student. At Key Stage 4 we currently offer Construction BTEC Entry Level Award in Construction (Edexcel, Level 1) and Hair and Beauty, GCSEs in Design and Technology and Food and Nutrition. The GCSEs follow the AQA specification with 50% coursework and 50% the terminal exam. Last years GCSE Design and Technology results were 71% 9-4 and Food Preparation and Nutrition results were 73% 9-4.

KS5

Students in the sixth form work towards A'levels in the following subjects:

D&T Product Design

Textiles and Fashion

We are currently in our third year of the AQA D&T Product Design A-Level course, and have attracted students from other regional schools as part of our outstanding sixth form (as judged by OFSTED). In this we use a range of materials, resistant and compliant, to create a unique product and associated design folio for coursework which is worth 50% of the exam. Last years' A' level results were 73% A* – C and 100% A* - E.

We will also be offering AQA Textiles and Fashion next year having previously taught the Product Design: Textiles course with 100% A* - E results in 2018.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

Students are encouraged to attend Coursework Clubs in all specialisms during KS4 and 5; these run for two or more hours a week after school. In addition, there is a lunchtime KS3 D&T club where students are encouraged to make items in resistant materials.. We enter competitions such as the Rotary Club Technology Tournament and Young Chef in the Dacorum area.

FUTURE

We are a dynamic, forward thinking and creative department and we are *always* looking to improve. We have very high expectations of ourselves and for all of our students and we aim to continue to grow and progress. We are always looking for new units to teach that will enhance students' understanding of the world in which we live. To that end, we are always open to using the skills of members of staff and integrate these into our curriculum.