**THE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY AREA AT SWCHS**

Background:

* Design and Technology is well respected, progressive and highly successful subject at SWCHS, with consistently excellent results at GCSE and A-level.
* Our GCSE A\*-C pass rate averages at around 80%
* We provide opportunity for students to enjoy learning in the following specialist areas; Graphic Design, Textiles, Food, Electronics, Resistant Materials and Engineering at KS3 and 4.
* Our KS5 programme of study allows students to progress within three specialist areas comprising of Graphic Design, Engineering and Resistant Materials
* As a teaching school, the area regularly hosts PGCE students from the Cambridge Faculty of Education and other trainee teachers as part of the schools involvement in the Cambridge Teaching Schools Network, providing the opportunity for mentoring roles within the department.
* We are proud of our involvement in initiatives on cross-phase work with local primary schools, teaching and learning excellence, the school’s research community, and local industry liaison.
* Opportunities exist for the Technology Area staff to participate in the school’s extensive external partnerships with other secondary schools and partner primaries.

Resources:

* The Area is mainly based in a self-contained building; The Technology Centre. This offers forward-looking, well equipped Technology accommodation consisting of extensive ICT, Control, CAD/CAM, Textile, Engineering, Woodworking and Electronics facilities. Three well equipment Food rooms are located in the main school with a small ICT area for students use.
* We have an extensive CNC resources comprising of a Laser Cutter, CNC Lathes and Milling machines, Router and 3D Printer.

Staffing and Management:

* A team of three led by the Area Coordinator currently manages the Area. Each of whom lead teaching and learning across one Key Stage.
* The Area is supported by a ‘Lead Teacher’ of Design and Technology who’s work ranges from area self-evaluation activities to coaching.
* There is a strong team-working ethos where our team of ten passionate, highly skilled and committed teachers work together to ensure that each specialist area evolves with the demands of the ever changing Technological landscape, providing our students with engaging and exciting learning opportunities.
* One full-time Technician and three part-time Curriculum Assistants support teaching staff.

**Curriculum**

KS3

A broad range of teaching and learning approaches are used to deliver an enthusing and stimulating Key Stage 3 Curriculum, which is delivered through a carousel approach. All staff teach across the specialisms offered at KS3.

We currently operate a two-year KS3 where all student’s carousel through Graphic Design, Electronic, Textile, Food, Resistant Materials and Engineering modules in mixed ability groups of approximately 20 students.

KS4

Our GCSE courses are delivered across three years where students are able to opt for one of the following courses; GCSE Design and Technology with the option to choose a Metals (Engineering ‘Lite’), Timbers (Resistant Materials) pathway. GCSE Engineering, GCSE Art and Design Textiles, GCSE Art and Design Graphic Design and GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition. All of our KS4 subjects are highly popular; around 70% of our student chose to follow a Design and Technology course at GCSE.

KS5

We are currently in the first year of offering a new linear A Level Product Design course through Edexcel, with students able to specialise in Graphics, Engineering or Resistant Materials.

For the exam element of the course, students are taught the same core

theory. The coursework component allows students the flexibility to choose

an area they wish to undertake, linking to the subjects they studied at GCSE.

The area contains a rich source of facilities to enable students to pursue

personalized projects and create high quality outcomes.

Post-16 numbers are expanding, with three AS and two A2 groups at present.