**DESIGN TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

The department believes that success is based on the expertise being developed by our students through the quality of teaching and learning. Skills and knowledge are developed via appropriate ‘design and make’ activities. Students are encouraged to think independently, analyse, research information and take a highly creative and innovative approach when designing and making. As a group of staff we seek to support, stimulate and challenge students through individual and group learning. We seek to develop an awareness of the social, moral, environmental and cultural aspects of our society in preparing our students to continue in further education or employment.

Our approach to KS3 project work is tailored and differentiated to allow all students to gain confidence in the new skills and techniques required. Through exploration of materials and processes, students are able to develop the proficiency and knowledge required for KS4, with a particular emphasis on innovation and creativity.

Our KS4 project work has been extremely successful with the most recent cohort achieving 30% A\*-A grades and 90% A\*-C grades. We currently follow the AQA exam specification for Design Technology, and the subject is incredibly popular at GCSE with a consistently high level of engagement. Lessons are designed to motivate and encourage the students, to raise achievement and to promote creativity, innovation and resilience.

Our KS5 course continues to gain popularity with our own students and external candidates, our results are within the top 10% of the country and many of our students go on to study design related subjects at University.

Many of our students continue to study Design and Engineering related subjects at University, whilst in recent years others have gone on to apprenticeships with companies such as British Aerospace Engineering Systems, Studio Conran, Adidas and Tom Dixon.