



Wootton Academy Trust

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Wootton Upper School and Kimberley 16 - 19 STEM College (in the nearby village of Stewartby) are operated by Wootton Academy Trust [WAT]. The two institutions are 3 miles apart and linked by a shuttle bus. WAT is highly ambitious and its vision is to provide outstanding education in all of its component parts.

Wootton Upper School was inspected in November 2017 and received a very positive report. The school was judged to be good in all areas. Wootton Upper School, with 900 pupils across Years 9 - 11, achieves results across the core subjects which are very high. Our GCSE English and GCSE Science results are well-above the national average. In Mathematics, results are above the national average and improving. Outcomes at KS4 in Graphics and Product Design are improving rapidly.

Kimberley College 16-19 STEM College opened in September 2013 and has 650 students. Numbers will grow to near 700 in September 2021. The College was inspected in January 2017 and judged good in most areas and outstanding in personal development and well-being. For the last two years the College has been in the Sunday Times list of the top 20 Sixth Form Colleges in the UK based on the proportion of students getting 2As and 1B or better in facilitating subjects. A Level Product Design is being introduced at the College from September 2021. Graphics and Engineering are already very popular and successful.

The Design Technology Department

The Design Technology Department at Wootton Upper School consists of three modern workshops and a graphics studio together with storage cupboards and a departmental office. There are ICT rooms nearby which the department accesses. The facilities at Kimberley College for Technology and Engineering are state of the art.

The Trust is keen that Technology becomes a beacon at both Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College. Our aim is that every student gains enjoyment from their study of Design Technology options. We want all technology lessons to be dynamic, varied and interesting, with all students being challenged in a supportive environment.

Currently, Graphics and Product Design are offered to Year 9 pupils as options; usually there are four groups run in each subject. At Key Stage 4, current Year 10 and Year 11 pupils may select GCSE Graphics [*from the Art and Design Specification*] and GCSE Design Technology

In the Sixth Form, students may study for a level 3 BTEC Extended Certificate or BTEC National Diploma 3 in Graphics, a BTEC Extended Certificate Engineering or, from September 2021 A level Product Design. Given Kimberley's STEM specialism, the Trust is keen to see all its technology and engineering courses flourish there.

Many Kimberley students go on to study Engineering at university [including those who have studied Maths, Further Maths and Physics at A level]; students also go on to engineering apprenticeships. Graphics is a very popular choice at university; the current KS5 Graphics specialist has built links with many higher education institutions.

Department Staff

There are three members of the Design Technology team; in addition to the Director - who is a Graphics specialist, currently there are two other teachers and a technician. One of the two teachers is a Graphics specialist, who is able to teach Product Design. The other is a Product Design specialist, who can teach Graphics. This new post reflects the increasing popularity of courses offered by the department and continuing growth in numbers at the STEM College.

If you would like any further information on our Design Technology Department or arrange a visit, please send an email to recruitment@wootton.beds.sch.uk.

Below are some photographs of the Engineering and Technology rooms at Kimberley College.



