



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE

Design and Technology Faculty

Over the last few years results in Design & Technology have been consistently high. Our Head of Faculty is the Lead Tutor for Design and Technology for the Leicestershire Secondary School-Centred Initial Teacher Training Programme (SCITT), supporting D&T trainee teachers across the City and County. The team consists of six specialists, some contributing to more than one discipline within the subject, all working in a highly collaborative and supportive way with each other.

Through the excellent teaching, sense of purpose and strong guidance of a vibrant and forward thinking Design and Technology Faculty, we believe students will be prepared to contribute throughout their lives to an ever changing environment, an environment in which we hope each and every student can make their mark and help to bring about positive and productive change. Whether that is making students more aware of their environment and their responsibility to it or nurturing students to be the great, innovative designers of tomorrow, we believe we are all having a positive, and in some cases profound effect upon the change they will lead today and indeed, over the coming decades.

We give all students the opportunity to explore Design through a number of different processes, techniques and materials. We engage students in theory work before practical begins so that they fully understand the design process and how this has a significant part to play in the success or failure of a product. Making processes are actively incorporated into Schemes of Learning and we recognise the importance of engagement to stimulate creativity and embed learning. Evaluative processes are equally important and students are encouraged to reflect and talk and seek support from their peers throughout each project. We ensure, through well structured lessons that all students are given the opportunity to enjoy and succeed.



We aim to:

- Make all students feel confident and enthused throughout all projects
- Encourage all students to become independent learners and seek support from their peers when opportunities arise
- Encourage autonomy in the classroom, through excellent AfL resources, demonstrations and open discussions
- Allow students to be creative and experimental, allowing those who feel able to develop skills outside of the normal lesson structure

- Help students to recognise the place Design and Technology has within society and how they too can influence the way they live by the choices they make in life
- Assist students in realising the importance of good design through product analysis, discussions and reflection
- Nurture students progress in terms of literacy and numeracy by strengthening links across curriculum areas and highlighting those links so as to encourage children to see their education holistically, not in isolation
- Reinforce and broaden students ICT skills through a number of varied programmes
- Allow students to realise it is acceptable to make mistakes and to actively encourage experimentation as long as there is time to reflect and consider what went wrong, why and how to make it right
- Engage all types of learners to ensure students stay on task and look forward to their D&T lessons.



At key stage 3 students are taught in mixed ability groups. Students rotate 4 times a year. Each group will move through Product Design (wood/plastic/metal), Product Design (textiles), Food Technology and Graphics. Students will repeat this sequence three times in Key Stage 3. Each group will revisit the same group of teachers over the three years so that relationships can be continued and the teachers and students are familiar with each other and observations regarding progression are fully informed.

At Key Stage 4 we offer GCSE courses in Design and Technology (focusing on wood/ plastic/ metal/ card/ paper/ textiles/ systems) and Food and Nutrition. For the academic years 2017-2019 there are two Food and Nutrition classes in year 11 and one in year 10, two Product Design classes in year 11 and three in year 10. Classes rarely exceed 22 because of Health and Safety considerations. At present we follow the AQA exam board. All Design and Technology subjects have a very successful history of outcomes at GCSE level in terms of both attainment and progress.



All GCSE groups are mixed ability and mixed gender. We now have consistently mixed gender groups at GCSE, which has proven to be most beneficial in terms of behaviour management, quality and variety of work produced, a far greater mix of materials and processes, healthy peer assessments and fantastic harmony and camaraderie in the groups.

Design and Technology at Soar Valley College is a fast moving and innovative department. We are an enthusiastic and welcoming group of teachers who care very much about the well being of all students and each other. We welcome change and are always inquisitive and forward thinking. We enjoy challenges and hearing the views of both students and colleagues. We enjoy bringing on new talent and gain a great deal from student teachers who are often training with us throughout the academic year. Furthermore, as the curriculum changes are upon us for KS4 we are avidly enquiring and preparing for the impact this will have on our students and are looking forward to continually moving the faculty forward.

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