



KING'S

GLOUCESTER

2022 ISI Inspection Report: 'excellent in all areas'



"A-Level Design & Technology at King's enabled me to build on my creativity through designing my very own products. The range of equipment available to me allowed me to really expand on my learning and enhance the quality of my final product. The staff were very supportive and encouraged me to push my boundaries."

Victoria Emery, former King's U6th pupil

Design & Technology at King's

The King's School's Design & Technology Department is a busy, dynamic and energetic place to work. We are constantly evolving projects, introducing new techniques and processes, and challenging students to achieve their very best. Staff have high expectations of students as both young technologists and as creative, independent workers. We aim to create an aspirational atmosphere of creative challenge, enjoyment and positive pupil engagement.



The department consists of the Head of Department, two teachers and a full-time technician. We operate an open-door policy, with staff able to visit each other's lessons and activities freely and with all department members encouraged to play an active role in developing projects and resources. Staff have expertise and specialism in a wide range of materials and disciplines; the sharing of ideas, techniques and discoveries between staff, as well as regular in-house CPD, is not only welcomed but encouraged.



All D&T staff teach across the age range of pupils, beginning with mixed ability groups in Years 6, 7 & 8. A large proportion of pupils choose to pursue Design & Technology in Y9 before selecting the subject at examination level. D&T scholarships are available to pupils entering in Years 9 & 12, and the subject is popular at both GCSE and A-Level. We offer the CIE IGCSE Design & Technology specification, offering the Resistant Materials route. In 2023 the department secured a 94% Level 9-6 pass rate, with 54% of pupils achieving a L9. We pride ourselves on offering pupils the opportunity to experience a wide range of practical activities, allowing them to make informed choices when producing their final artefacts. At A-Level we study the AQA syllabus, and pupils consistently achieve A*-B grades. Many of our students go on to achieve their goals of studying courses such as Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design and Product Design at university.



We are greatly supported as a department at King's, with School leaders recognising the value, enjoyment and challenge that Design & Technology provides to our pupils. Teaching takes place in our two large, multidisciplinary workshops, each of which is very well equipped with machinery and tooling. Large windows and high ceilings contribute to a bright and spacious environment, and we can boast the best view of any D&T department in the country: our school Chapel, the magnificent Gloucester Cathedral, which is an inspiration to pupils and staff.



Our workshops benefit from ample bench space and storage areas, comfortably accommodating the small to medium group sizes that are a hallmark of secondary education at King's. The Department is also equipped with its own small IT facility, a large laser cutter, a CNC router and a number of 3D printing machines. In addition, there is a fully equipped Technician's suite, where lesson materials are stored and prepared, as well as a separate storage facility for student project work. The students (in Y9 and above) are provided with personal devices in order to complete written and design work.



The department is a consistent hive of activity. Examination level students are encouraged to utilise the workshops at lunchtime, and additional workshop access is available both after school and on Saturdays at key points in the academic year. We also contribute to enrichment activities throughout the School year with D&T clubs for Y7-9, and we run taster workshops for external Junior School pupils at intervals throughout the year. All told, Design & Technology at King's is a busy, yet highly rewarding environment in which to work.

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