



The Design Technology Department at Becket Keys Church of England School

The team

We currently have two Design Technology teachers within the department. The department is building upon three years of successive improvement in its GCSE results and has now introduced the A Level within the Sixth Form.

Teaching area

The DT department benefits from a range of equipment and very spacious rooms. Current facilities include, two classroom spaces for different activities, a laser cutter, a 3D printer, a number of scroll saws, pillar drill, disc sanders as well as a range of hand held tools.

Curriculum, Assessment & Student Groupings

Design Technology is taught in small classes of mixed ability students in all years. All students at Key Stage 3 experience a wide range of activities to develop their practical skills, eye for design, understanding of materials and collaboration. Throughout KS3, students have one double lesson per week on a rotation with Food Technology. All Russell Education Trust (RET) schools use the same examination board for Design Technology (AQA) to allow us to share schemes of work (SOW), ideas and resources. You can see the Curriculum Outline on our website. Assessment plays a regular part in teaching within the department. Students are assessed formally and informally both in lessons and at the end of each unit. We currently assess students using the 9 – 1 scale, thus enabling students to gauge their progress in line with GCSE requirements.

At KS4, Design Technology is a very popular course and as already stated has seen progress year on year in terms of the 'value added' scores. We are confident that our scheme of work and systems are now well set up to ensure exam success. We currently run two sets at GCSE (AQA) at both Year 10 and Year 11. Within KS5, we now run A Level Product Design. Again, we follow the AQA specification enabling our students to benefit from the continuity and exam technique developed whilst studying the GCSE at KS4. We continually strive to develop our understanding of what helps students pass exams well and share our knowledge with teachers across the RET network. As well as raising standards, this significantly reduces workload.

Together, everyone is constantly reviewing resources from our exam board in order to keep abreast of updates and changes. We do have high expectations of exam success here, but you will be well supported in delivering it.

Professional Development

We take our CPD seriously, as all of us can develop our generic and subject-specific expertise. A wealth of experience within the department means that meetings focus on sharing ideas, jointly planning lessons, moderating assessments and generally making us better at teaching a range of different topics and products. We benefit from work scrutiny, learning walks, and longer observations by RET advisors and our senior team, which help us focus on what works well and where we need to adjust our practice. The RET DT network provides opportunities for Trust-wide training, and collaboration with the DT departments in the other four RET schools.