**Curriculum Information**

Design Technology (DT) is a dynamic and engaging subject that fosters creativity, develops problem-solving and technical skills and encourages students to look beyond their idea of the expected. In Design we look at form follows function, but we place huge importance on how design must evolve with our students’ expectations of what is possible, limited only by their imagination.

Our curriculum is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of design processes, materials, and the newest technologies, preparing them for future careers in a rapidly evolving world. It offers academic challenge while being routed in the practical skills required for life. Our students leave with a variety of creative skills and a sense of productivity and achievement having worked through ‘design and make’ tasks in several specialist areas including, Resistant Materials, Graphic Design, Textiles, Electronics, Food and Nutrition and CAD/CAM. The subject curriculum not only focuses on the practical technical skills of manufacture and fabrication but Automation, Production scales, Business, Economics, Maths and Materials Science and Technology.

Currently at KS4, students study AQA Design and Technology GCSE

Throughout the course, students will be taught more complex and challenging theoretical and practical based skills to support GCSE examinations and projects. These include but are not limited to Design communication, planning, research, modelling testing and development, manufacture, presentation and evaluation skills.

The course includes a variety of teaching methods, including practical tutorials in our workshops and digital computer suite equipped with 3d printing and laser cutting technology, as well as an increasing level of independent study from the students as they develop their personal design context and investigation. Students have the freedom to use the entire department, including all resources and facilities afterschool.

Outside of our taught curriculum, we offer the students an opportunity to ‘design and make for fun’, inviting them to attend several clubs and workshops afterschool during enrichment activities. Many of our KS4 students who do not select DT, often return to take part in some creative activities.

Many of our students develop a real passion for the vocational facet of Design Technology and the hands-on approach to teaching we provide here. Many go on to Chippenham college to take vocational courses in plumbing, electrical engineering and construction as well as a large percentage of GCSE Design Technology students going on to pursue courses in Engineering or Design at university.

**GCSE specification:** AQA Design and Technology 8552

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