

The Design & Technology Department

Without Design and Technology you would not be reading this document. Someone had to design your computer, both the inside electronics and the outside casing and its styling. Designers and technologists came together to make our standard of living what it is today. Design and Technology is about:

- ✚ Encouraging those who will mould our future.
- ✚ Making pupils think differently about products we now take for granted, how such products are designed, made and how they can be improved.

The Content of the Key Stages

Key Stage 3

In Year 7 we start with basic skills and processes which include using a range of hand and machine tools, as well as a range of materials and ingredients in the three areas of Food, Resistant Materials (wood, metals, plastics and electronics) and Textiles. Through Year 8 and 9, these skills are further developed and the pupils' experiences and opportunities broadened to include other areas such as computer control and its application to the students' own projects.

Key Stage 4 (GCSE)

In Years 10 and 11 a range of subjects is offered which allows pupils to develop their interests in a particular area of designing and making.

In Food, Catering is offered which provides pupils with a window on the catering industry and develops students' skills in understanding the relationship between diet and health.

In Design and Technology pupils are able to develop their skills and knowledge in Electronics, Resistant Materials, Textiles and Graphics, through 'design and make' based courses.

Child Development is on offer to pupils who are interested in the way children grow and develop.

Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies is available for students who show an interest in the riding and maintenance of motor bikes and road safety.

Key Stage 5 (AS/A2 Level)

In Years 12 and 13 we offer students a Product Design course which is an excellent preparation for adult ways of studying, ready for university courses. All the important key skills are imbedded within the subject, particularly problem solving. Past students have gone on to a range of careers, both within the Design and Engineering industry and other careers not necessarily associated with the subject.

Product Design at this level is intended to give students the opportunity to explore a wider range of problems to a greater depth. They are made more aware of the environmental impact designers have, as well as the moral issues of manufacturing practices employed around the world.

Many of the students' products have been displayed by the WJEC Examination Board at venues in both north and south Wales.