

Design and Technology Department

Aims of the department:

"You can find inspiration in everything. If you can't you're not looking hard enough"

Paul Smith

"It's through mistakes that you actually can grow. You have to get bad in order to get good."

Paula Scher

"Design is the fundamental soul of a human made creation"

Steve Jobs

- We aim for every pupil to make progress academically and as a person.
- We aim for pupils to develop an understanding of an increasingly technological world that will stand them in good stead throughout their lives.
- We aim to inspire future designers and engineers.
- We aim to develop problem solving skills that are transferable for any route pupils choose to take post-16.

Curriculum

KS3

All pupils follow a programme of study in D&T at KS3, following a carousel system which enables all students over the course of year 7 and 8 to experience all 7 of our specialist areas. At the end of year 8 students opt for a specialism which they then start in year 9 and onto KS4. During KS3 pupils are given the opportunity to study Woods Metals and Plastics, Engineering Manufacture, CAD/CAM with Electronics, Fashion and Textiles, Graphics and Food Preparation and Nutrition. Pupils studying D&T at St Paul's make outstanding progress during KS3 because of the effort and engagement they show in their learning, the expert teaching they receive and the access they have to modern, high-quality resources and facilities.

KS4

All pupils at St. Paul's study D&T until the end of Year 11. Currently, in Year 11, we offer OCR GCSE D&T where pupils are encouraged to specialise through the NEA in the following areas: CAD/CAM with Electronics, Woods Metals and Plastics, Graphics, and Fashion and Textiles. We also offer AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition as well as OCR National Engineering Manufacture and NCFE level 1 VCERT in Food and Cookery. Pupils at St. Paul's are successful in their studies in D&T.

KS5

A-level Product Design, Fashion and Textiles and AAQ Engineering (all OCR) are popular courses post-16, consistently attracting cohorts of 45-50 pupils across the three subjects. The academic success of pupils who study D&T at St. Paul's is enabled by creative and motivated teaching and support staff who value working in a strong team and a collaborative environment.

Department overview

Evidence, built up over time, suggests that we are an outstanding department. We have recently been made an OCR ambassador centre which recognises the excellence in the delivery of the Design and Technology qualifications. We are also frequently invited to national events hosted by exam boards and Design and Technology academics where we can share opinions and work towards shaping the future of the subject. We are in a school where pupils' behaviour is outstanding. We are outstanding because of the quality of teaching and learning; commitment of staff and pupils and the subsequent progress pupils make.

The D&T department consists of eight teachers and two technicians. There are nine dedicated D&T rooms- a Textiles workshop, a Food room, an Engineering workshop, a Woods, Metals and Plastics workshop, a CAD/Electronics room, a Graphic Design room, a CAD suite and a dedicated staff work room. There is also a significant and valuable amount of storage and preparatory space. The departmental classroom and foyer spaces have become a beacon for others in the school because of the effectiveness of information and celebration displays.

There is always a good, humoured atmosphere in the department, colleagues are supportive of each other and opportunities to work collaboratively are embraced. We value the opportunity to share lunch together each day. We are an innovative team who embrace new technologies and are excited by the developments in curriculum thinking over recent years. We have a weekly timetabled meeting during the school day and additional opportunities to meet throughout the year during directed time.

The department has received significant capital investment over recent years and continues to be very well supported financially year on year. Pupils never have to pay for their materials or ingredients. All Year 11 pupils have access to ICT during their controlled assessment/NEA, with electronic portfolios becoming the norm over recent years. Because of our excellent facilities many KS3 pupils are now integrating CAD/CAM and 3D printing into their projects.

Teachers are enthusiastic about D&T and provide exciting opportunities for pupils to learn outside of timetabled lessons. We regularly take pupils on trips, including our annual year 7 trip to the Harry Potter Studios and the A Level trip to the New Designers Exhibition in London. We also organise visits, enter design competitions, run after school clubs, as well as a regular and very well attended KS4 coursework club for all subject areas.

CPD is a priority for all leaders and colleagues at St. Paul's. As such all teachers have their membership of DATA paid for by the school and ongoing H&S training is a priority.

Meghan Martin and Mark McCarthy

Joint Heads of Design and Technology