

KS3 D&T

We pride ourselves on teaching younger students at KS3 skills that they can use for the rest of their life, these work on a rotation of resistant materials (working with timber, metal and polymers), graphic design, textiles and food.

We have access to great facilities in the workshops at St James, we have industry standard pieces of equipment and are lucky enough to have computer aided manufacturing equipment for the students to use. By having access to such good equipment it give students great opportunities to produce very high standard work especially when the students are making their final GCSE pieces in year 11.

Learning: Students spend each term in mixed ability classes with specialist teachers. They learn to solve design problems through a variety of media including food, wood, metals, plastics and electronics. They learn to communicate and develop their ideas through designing and making prototypes. In Design & Technology we develop knowledge of sustainability and environmental issues, compare designs across cultures and learn how to use a variety of tools, machines and equipment. Year 7 develop their knowledge and confidence in all of these areas over the course of the year.

Skills: Year 7 students will develop the following skills in Design & Technology: teamwork, effective listening and observation of demonstrations, product analytical skills, practical confidence, hand/eye co-ordination, use of tools and processes, problem solving through design and modelling, evaluating skills and essential life skills.

Assessment: Students will have a design book where they keep their ideas and a record of project development. Assessment for Learning linked to National Curriculum levels will also be recorded here. Teachers will set short term targets and monitor whether they are being met. The curriculum will be mapped out so we ensure a full and wide range of knowledge is experienced. This means that students can appreciate that you do not have to be an absolute specialist to succeed across all the different material disciplines.

Parents: Parents can support their child's learning by regularly asking them what is being learnt in Design & Technology. Please monitor and take an interest in independent study and encourage them to use practical skills where possible. Please praise work that comes home, and lastly, it would really help if you could provide your child with firm shoes for workshop sessions