

Brookfield Community School



REDHILL ACADEMY TRUST
Exsisto Optimus



Design & Technology at Brookfield

The Design & Technology Department at Brookfield School is a hard-working and successful team, with a wide range of experience and expertise. We offer a broad range of popular qualifications which successfully meet the needs of our young people.

The Design & Technology department has an ethos which is rooted in strong teamwork, sharing good practice and a commitment to providing the best opportunities for our students' success. As a school with a comprehensive intake, we work hard to meet the needs of all individuals who attend the school and aim to ensure that all make good or outstanding progress.

Based in two sites within the school building, a wing of the school featuring a number of practical workshops, and two food technology rooms a short distance away, we have enabled the creation of a clear identity and ethos. Colleagues consistently share resources and teaching and learning strategies and there is a positive and supportive level of professional discourse. The practical workshops are well resourced with a wide range of equipment including a laser cutter, 3D printer, CAM routers, a fully stocked heat treatment and welding room, all the usual workshop machinery and two rooms with PC's and laptop trolleys. Food Technology is delivered from two fully equipped specialist rooms.

Key Stage 3

At Key Stage 3, groups are set according to ability. All groups follow a clear and comprehensive curriculum structure. Students complete a range of interesting projects, which are designed to engage and enthuse learners, whilst also addressing all of the Design & Technology assessment objectives. To this extent, KS3 fully prepares students for their KS4 courses. The modules ensure that students complete a variety of practical designing and making activities which cover a wide range of resistant materials, electronics and textiles. Schemes of work are routinely reviewed and adapted to ensure they meet the needs of our learners.

Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4, groups are mixed ability. We follow the AQA GCSE Design and Technology course and the WJEC Level 1/2 Engineering and Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering qualifications. The subject remains a popular option choice. As with Key Stage 3, all groups follow a clear curriculum structure, with a broad range of design and make activities running alongside the necessary theory elements of the course. Schemes of work are currently under development for all 3 qualifications and resources are stored electronically in a shared area; to take into account the needs of our students, resources are updated routinely.

Key Stage 5

At Key Stage 5 we deliver AQA Design & Technology: Product Design. This linear qualification enables students to develop the ability to respond creatively to design problems, and equips them with the skills, knowledge and understanding to manufacture quality, functional prototypes and practical solutions. The wider world of design is covered through theory lessons and allows students to consider the role of the designer in the modern age and the requirements placed on designers by social, moral and environmental contexts.

Assessment takes the form of a significant design and make project which spans years 12 and 13, and two exams which cover both the technical elements of the course and the theory of design. These exams take place in June, at the end of year 13. All KS5 classes are taught by pairs of teachers. There are prescribed curriculum structures for the course that all staff broadly follow. However, the precise division of responsibilities is negotiable and may take into account particular teaching strengths or preferences. A high proportion of KS5 students progress to further education in a wide range of related undergraduate courses.

I am proud to lead a dedicated and supportive department that is passionate about teaching Design & Technology and Food Technology and one that is dedicated to the continual improvement of the content offered and building on its successful past to forge an even more successful future. It is an exciting time to join the department as we look to build on our teaching and learning with new strategies informed by educational research. This is a vibrant department which would provide an excellent opportunity for a colleague to either begin or build upon their career and any colleague joining us would be supported in finding appropriate professional development opportunities to support their future progression. I look forward to welcoming a new colleague who has the vision, innovation and drive to be a part of continuing the success of the department.

In the next two years the department considers its main priorities to be:

- Developing the curriculum to ensuring challenge across the key stages.
- Closing the gap between PP and non-PP students in terms of the progress made.
- Improving the accuracy of grade projections.
- Ensuring that all students are 'exam ready'.
- Improving the outcomes for high ability students in the GCSE NEA component.

Matthew Swift

Head of Design & Technology – April 2021