



Welcome to the DT Department

Design Team

Nina Ritzaki	Head of Design Technology (Product Design specialist)
Sarah Jones	Teacher of DT (Food specialist and Head of Year 7)
Spencer Cutler	Teacher of DT (Design Technology teacher and Deputy Headteacher)
Andy Jacobs	Technician (p/t)
Charlotte Marshall	Technician (full time)

Our Ethos

We are a positive team with a strong sense of loyalty and commitment to our students. Our department is key in delivering life skills and providing students with opportunities to explore their creativity and sense of self. Our department prides itself on providing the essential support and nurturing environment many of our learners require when progressing through secondary school. Students are often found after school attending intervention or enrichment, developing skills and extending their knowledge of Design and Manufacture. As well as the teaching staff, our technicians play a vital role in the delivery of our curriculum and are integral in sharing of good practice and skills sharing

Any new member of staff joining us will feel welcomed and very supported by the whole team and wider school community.

Accommodation and Department

The Design and Technology Department is generously accommodated within 5 well-appointed and specialised classrooms. We benefit from specialist Food, Textiles and Resistant Materials rooms, as well 2 computer suites suitable for teaching all aspects of CAD/CAM and Graphic Design, where we deliver Adobe Design packages and solid modelling software. Recently, the Department has purchased a smart tv, vinyl cutter and two 3D Printers in addition to our Laser Cutter and CAD/CAM embroidery machine. We intend on expanding this further and acquiring more CNC machines. On the upper floor housed within the Creative Arts Department, there are two spacious Art rooms one of which houses a pair of full-size ceramic kilns and electric pottery wheels which Design students can access. There is also a second large computer suite housing 15 PC's. IT is a key feature of teaching across the faculty and this is supported through the large numbers of IT rooms and laptops available during lessons.

Teaching & Learning in the Creative and DT Department

- All teaching is underpinned by the foundations of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding. Staff ensure these key areas are identified within the lesson objectives and success criteria.
- Differentiation is key to ensuring lessons meet the needs of different groups of pupils. Staff are aware of the needs of individuals and ensure lessons are pitched at the appropriate level for all.
- As well as subject specific skills, students are taught a range of transferable skills including Literacy and Numeracy.
- Progress is paramount to student success and all staff employ different strategies to help students make progress and challenge those who aren't.
- There is a real focus on developing independent learning
- AFL is an integral part of teaching within the Department and staff readily include peer, self and parent assessment as a way of providing high quality feedback to students.
- We have high expectations of behaviour in all lessons, and we employ a range of effective strategies and procedures to ensure behaviour does not impact on students' learning.

- We strongly believe in working as a team and helping each other to develop.
- Staff are committed to their own professional development and regularly seek opportunities to observe and share good practice.

Curriculum information

KEY STAGE 3:

Students in Year 7 and 8 and 9 are timetabled on a carousel system which enables them to rotate around a cycle of different specialisms within the Design and Technology curriculum. Students are given opportunities to explore a broad range of practical skills through completing modules in CAD/CAM, RM, Textiles, Graphic Design and Food and Nutrition. We integrate the teaching of Electronics and Systems Control throughout the projects in KS3 & 4.

KEY STAGE 4

At KS4 students complete the DT AQA syllabus and are offered the opportunity to use a multitude of materials areas including Textiles, Resistant materials and Graphics. Since September 2022, the department sees large numbers of students subscribe to GCSE and this coming year looks to also be a healthy uptake in both Design Technology and BTEC Hospitality and Catering. We offer lessons in core principals, specialist principals and combine theoretical learning with practical skills-based learning in year 10, allowing Students to fully focus on their NEA in Year 11.

KEY STAGE 5

A healthy number of students choose to remain with Abbeyfield School in the Sixth Form, many of which opt for courses within Design Technology and Creative Arts. Many of our students progress on to college and universities to study Design and /or Engineering. We also support the KS5 curriculum with the delivery of a Life Skills course for 6th form students.

Enrichment

Our Department is a vibrant and dynamic area of the school. We recognise the importance and benefits of extending students' learning beyond the classroom. We also support the Creative Arts team with enrichment such as Drama productions, a Carol Concerts, and Art and Design exhibitions. There are also a range of extra-curricular activities on offer throughout the week for all year groups through our enrichment program, where we offer activities such as Eco Club, Design club and Themed food enrichment sessions throughout the year.

The future

The Department is a forward-looking area of the school and continually strives to improve the quality of provision for our students. Along with continued development of the Mastery Curriculum in KS3, we aim to provide students at all levels with a rich and purposeful experience of Design and Technology.

Come and visit us.....

For an informal chat or to see the learning area at work, please contact
Nina Ritzaki on 01249 464505 or email ncr@abbeyfield.wilts.sch.uk