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Ormiston Academies Trust
ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

Design & technology curriculum overview

Design & technology at Tenbury High Ormiston Academy

Key stage 3, Years 7, 8 and 9

Our KS3 Design & Technology curriculum inspires pupils to become innovative thinkers who can design and create products that solve real problems. Pupils learn to work with a range of materials, tools, and technologies, developing practical skills alongside creativity and resilience. They explore the design process from research and planning to making and evaluating, learning how products are shaped by function, user needs, and sustainability. They learn about diverse design movements and designers to understand the impact of design and technology on the world.

Our intent is for pupils to leave KS3 with the confidence to design, make, and evaluate thoughtfully, with the practical life skills needed for a healthy, sustainable future, and with the enthusiasm to study design & technology further.

Key stage 4, Years 10 and 11

Our KS4 DT curriculum is designed to prepare pupils for success in Design & Technology GCSE using the AQA exam board.

Building on strong foundations from KS3, pupils will learn to apply the core concepts in design & technology. They will learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors, working creatively when designing and making and applying technical and practical expertise. Pupils will study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

As well as leaving KS4 with a strong qualification in GCSE Design & Technology, our intent is that this curriculum sets pupils up with the skills that will allow them to pursue a future in many related careers.

GCSE course information

Exam board	AQA
Course	GCSE Design & Technology (8552)
Specification and resources	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification

Year 7

Year 7 is a skills-building year focused on introducing pupils to a wide range of processes, equipment, and materials through practical work. Pupils develop foundational knowledge of materials and processes, which is then applied and built upon throughout Key Stage 3.

Design and evaluation are taught alongside practical lessons through short, focused activities. Pupils complete simple design tasks that may or may not lead directly to making, supporting continuity and progression. More advanced technical knowledge is developed in Year 8.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Festive Chocolate Bar Health and safety, design brief, design cycle, working with timbers	Festive Chocolate Bar Working with polymers, nets and packaging	Monster Phone Case Natural and synthetic textiles, market research, character design	Monster Phone Case Embroidery, applique	Wooden Truck Natural and man-made timbers, working with hand tools	Wooden Truck Working with machine tools, finishing techniques

Assessments will take place in January and June and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

Year 8

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Lego Character Banner Textile properties, block printing, character design	Lego Character Banner Heat press, fabric painting, applique, embroidery	Egg Holder Prototyping, measuring, laser cutting polymers	Egg Holder Drilling, filing, line bender	Paper Engineering Paper manufacturing, the six R's of sustainability, mechanisms	Paper Engineering Pop up book prototype

Assessments will take place in January and June and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

Year 9

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Day of the Dead Cotton manufacturing and recycled textiles, cultural beliefs	Day of the Dead Tie dye, embroidery, fabric painting, applique	Clock Design Pop Art, electronic systems	Clock Design Laser cutting, surface decoration	Snappy Frog Timbers, mechanisms, hand and machine tools	Snappy Frog Timbers, mechanisms, hand and machine tools

Assessments will take place in January and June and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

Year 10

Throughout year 10, students develop an understanding of materials – traditional and new, the environmental impact of design and technology, how to design for the different needs of different people, and how to iterate throughout the design process. They will learn about electronics and control systems and will study the work of contemporary and historical designers, learning about key movements in the history of design.

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Understanding and selecting materials	Developments in new materials	Sustainability Design development and communication	People, culture and society The complete design cycle	Electronics Systems & control	Influential designers Non-examination assessment (NEA; coursework)

Assessments will take place in April and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.

Year 11

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
				Exams	*Exams*

Mocks will take place in November and February and we will share revision information a few weeks before each assessment.