

Overview of Year 9 Design Technology Curriculum

In Year 9, the main focus is on the transition from Key Stage 2 and also the introduction of the basic materials and skills used in Design Technology. A total of 12 units are studied throughout the year, starting with a Health and Safety unit. After that, a Graphics unit is taught to provide the skills necessary to design and draw ideas. Other units focus on knowledge and understanding, product analysis and design skills. 3 focused practical tasks introduce pupils to cutting and shaping and finishing wood, metal and plastics. In addition, there are 2 longer units (Design and Make Assignments) which are planned to have an 'open' outcome. The units are as follows:

UNIT 1 Health and Safety

UNIT 2 Graphics Exercises

UNIT 3 Knowledge and Understanding - materials and measurement

UNIT 4 Focused Practical Task - Credit Card Torch (Electronics)

UNIT 5 Focused Practical Task - Spatula (Wood)

UNIT 6 Product Analysis - Keys and Pegs

UNIT 7 Knowledge and Understanding -Compliant Materials (Textiles)

UNIT 8 Focused Practical Task -Key Fob (Aluminium)

UNIT 9 Design And Make Assignment - Peg Creature

UNIT 10 Design Skills - Egyptian/Japanese logo design

UNIT 11 ICT - Credit card project graphics

UNIT 12 Design and Make Assignment - Egg Holder (Plastic)

Homework

This is set once per week and is designed to support the work done during lessons. This will include written tasks, questions about the unit being taught, research topics and design tasks. In addition, an independent study project will be set in September. It will not replace all of the homework tasks for Autumn term but pupils will be expected to work on it in their own time. As this task will become part of the formal assessment for Year 7, they will be expected to work on it to the best of their ability. As it is school policy to set weekly homework, a detention will be issued if these are not handed in regularly.

Examinations/Key assessments

Assessment takes place at the end of each unit of work. Examinations take place at the end of each term on all the units taught in that time. Pupils complete a progress file in which they record all levels, results and assessments. They comment on these and set targets for future work. Pupils are encouraged to assess their own work in order to help them become more aware of the progress they are making. Additionally, 6 key pieces of work are marked in detail at key points in the year. These highlight strengths and weaknesses and also suggest ways in which improvements can be made.

How Parents can help

- Check that homework is recorded in planners and that any work is completed to a good standard.
- Ensure that basic equipment is brought to each lesson. A pen and pencil are the minimum requirements.
- Purchase a woodwork apron as soon as possible as this is necessary for all practical activities. Pupils are not allowed to participate in practical lessons without one.
- Encourage the use of the Internet or the library for research tasks and homework completion.
- Help with independent study research and presentation in order to ensure a good outcome and therefore a high grade on completion.