

Overview of Year 7 Design Technology Curriculum

In Year 7, the main focus is on the transition from Key Stage 2 and the introduction to the basic materials and skills used in Design Technology. A total of 10 units are studied throughout the year, starting with a Health and Safety Unit. A Graphics follows which provides the skills necessary to draw and design ideas. Four 'Focused Practical Tasks (FPT)' introduce pupils to cutting and shaping materials. In addition, three longer units called 'Design and Make Assignments' (DMA) which focus on the main materials used in this subject of wood, metals and plastics. The units are as follows:

UNIT 1	Health and Safety
UNIT 2	Graphics exercises - Freehand Sketching
UNIT 3	FPT - Spatula (Wood)
UNIT 4	DMA - Cityscapes Wall plaque (Wood)
UNIT 5	FPT - Egg holder (Plastic)
UNIT 6	DMA - Credit Card Torch (Plastic, Graphics, Electronics)
UNIT 7	FPT - Metal Key Fob
UNIT 8	FPT - Logo Design (Graphics)
UNIT 9	DMA - Toy Truck (Wood)
UNIT 10	FPT - Design Skills - wineglass design

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 October. 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. 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.