![D&T the design and technology association]

Choose D&T!

Why opting for design and technology is fundamental to your future career in product design, digital design, engineering and textiles

What employers want

- A practical skill set that you can apply in your job

- Working in teams and alone

- Presentation and negotiating skills

- Experience and competence in complex problem solving

A Level choices: Design and Technology

- Design Engineering

- Product Design

- Fashion and Textiles

Choosing D&T GCSE is the route towards your specialism and career.

If you have just one option and want a career in these sectors, make sure you choose design and technology. D&T is widely recognised as providing students with the transferable skills and critical thinking skills that are so important in many other areas of employment.

Choose D&T!

We know how important design and technology is in preparing students for their futures, the world of work and becoming discerning members of society. We know, but conveying this to students and parents who are considering their options is not always so straightforward.

This term's magazine contains a large-scale poster for display in the department, at options evenings, or, in fact anywhere in the school to help reinforce the value of D&T when making choices about future directions. Students are often asked to make subject choices at an early stage and instilling an understanding of the value of the subject through various means is important to them, but also to the department and to D&T's survival within a climate where a lack of choices and limited understanding sometimes threatens its future.

What to stress

The things that employers are looking for:

- Creativity, innovation and adaptability.
- Communication skills
- Transferable skills.
- Aptitude and a willingness to learn and take on new skills.
- Critical thinking skills.
- Team working and negotiation skills.

The 2016 World Economic Forum in Davos listed the ten skills you'll need to acquire by 2020 as:

- Complex problem-solving
- Critical thinking
- Creativity
- People management
- Coordinating with others
- Emotional intelligence
- Judgement and decision-making
- Service orientation
- Negotiation
- Cognitive flexibility

(source: www.weforum.org)

Growth sectors in future areas of employment:

- Applying technological solutions to man-made problems such as the environmental impact of past industrial processes.
- A digital future in sectors such as communications, engineering, textiles, medical industries, transportation, robotics and AI.
- Jobs that didn't exist until recently and don't exist yet!

The future economy and the role of D&T

- We need to make the world better, safer and cleaner and the UK leads in designing and developing new processes and products that lead to this.
- After Brexit new opportunities may arise for home grown talent to show what we can do.
- D&T is vital to the economy with areas such as fashion and textiles, the creative industries and engineering contributing massively to our futures.

Why D&T is important in these areas and because it helps and allows students to:

- Understand what people want
- Create fantastic designs using new tools, material and processes
- Make brilliant products using CAD, CAM and 3D printing
- Work in teams and individually
- Develop empathy and a connection to others
- Understand materials
- Understand how things work
- Have the freedom to be creative
- Design and make real things
- Solve real-world problems
- Future proof their prospects
- Have control over their lives and environment

Ensure that your students are both prepared for their futures, but also aware of the role of design and technology in helping them to make the choices that give them control of it.