Design Technology Reading Strategy

Design and Technology relies on the creativity of the participants in lessons but there is also a need for pupils to read to help them to work effectively. Reading is the best way to broaden horizons and enrich the experience of pupils and it will help them to make more informed decisions during the processes that they follow in DT.

Recipes are of course the obvious reading that pupils will do – to follow a set of instructions and put together ingredients is a skill in itself. This same process can be applied to all areas of Design and Technology thinking about the process to follow and what is needed to get to the end result is so important.

Reading for information – Another important skill that will enable pupils to further extend their knowledge of the tools and materials that they are using. The more information gained the more informed their design work and practical application will be. How to join materials effectively for example – glue, joints, screws etc? How do certain materials/ingredients react together when combined?

Following and reading instructions – another important skill. Often given verbally but there is usually a written version to look at and remind of the task in hand. Referring back and reminding will improve the outcome of the work done.

Word banks are provided for each project that are directly related to the work they are doing it is important to read and learn them to extend learning experience and enable them to write informed evaluations and instructions where necessary.

Design And Technology is thought to be a purely practical subject but the ability to read around the subject area will provide a more rounded education and help pupils to make informed choices independently.