

Ribblesdale High School Design and Technology Curriculum Area Profile

Welcome to the Design and Technology Curriculum Area!

We are a relatively large and dynamic team comprising five core Design Technology specialists and served by two specialist technicians. The Curriculum Area Leader, also one of three whole school Teaching and Learning Ambassadors, is supported by a Subject Leader, responsible for the leadership of Food Technology within the curriculum area. The remainder of the team comprises highly experienced staff, some of whom have whole school responsibility in areas such as the effective use of 21st century technologies within the department and beyond. We are excited and dedicated to add to this multi-faceted team, with an individual who shares our ambition to make Design and Technology a highly challenging, but equally enjoyable subject for all of our pupils to experience.

Design and Technology is evolving and as such we are evolving with it. We offer a GCSE route at Key Stage 4 which remains popular; with nearly half of pupils in Year 10 and 11 taking up the open option. We offer the WJEC / Eduqas specification and have recently completed the first cycle of this new course, with very positive praise and feedback from the board! Alongside this we also offer a vocational route through the NCFE Level 1/2 Graphic Design. This is designed to cater for all abilities, interests and needs from across the school and has been popular in its maiden year of being offered to pupils. Members of the department are represented as examiners, moderators and on the awarding panel of all of these options. In Food Technology, we offer a similar compliment of technical awards and GCSE; with the Hospitality and Catering and Food and Nutrition Eduqas courses.

In the summer of 2018, Food and Nutrition achieved outstanding GCSE results in the first year of a new course with an exceptionally high progress measure; far exceeding the national standard. Design and Technology also has a history of achieving very highly at Ribblesdale and this trend continued in the same window, in the final year of the old specification. We anticipate excellent outcomes again this summer and only hope to build on this, for all learners in Design and Technology, as our experience and confidence with the new demand grows.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum is engineered to reflect the demand of the GCSE specification. Pupils in Year 7 and 8 will complete six design and make projects throughout each year respectively, with each one designed to cover the materials, core and technical principles required in Key Stage 4. The department, like the school, use Doodle as a means of formatively assessing the progress in all aspects of the curriculum and this informs a range of responses including written reports to parents and intervention opportunities.

Design Technology is a well-supported area of Ribblesdale. Pupils in Year 7 receive two hours a week and in Year 8 pupils receive one hour of Design and Technology and one hour of Food Technology. Pupils receive a carousel approach to Year 9, where they experience Design and Technology in further detail alongside other open options. The department is equipped with a state of the art laser-cutter, several CNC routers, contemporary materials such as smart materials and has recently invested significantly in the introduction of rapid prototyping. As part of the structural development of the Ribblesdale building, a brand new, industry standard Food Technology facility will also be operational from September 2019.

The department shares in the whole school vision to provide a stimulating and engaging curriculum for all learners, which equips them for 21st century life. We actively encourage the development of differentiated resources to incite progress for all learners in Design Technology. We believe in a pace-driven, fun and energetic approach to teaching and learning, with skill building at the heart of every lesson. Questioning is encouraged as a method of

engaging every pupil and consolidating learning. We follow the whole school policy of providing feedback three-weekly, but encourage creativity in this regard with the best way of motivating and inspiring an individual pupil to develop being the directed way.

We are a Microsoft Training Academy school. As such, we actively encourage and exploit 21st century teaching technologies and we have an active 'Microsoft Innovator in Educator Expert' (MIEE) within the department.

We are a collaborative department and a collaborative school. We meet regularly as a team where the focus is deep-rooted in the ambitions and improvement targets of Ribblesdale, but equally our own as a curriculum area. We encourage a collaborative approach and foster a culture of working together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all learners in Design and Technology. The department believes strongly in the notion of a unified, accountable but blame-free culture being the best way to deliver outstanding, safe, fun and progressive outcomes and opportunities for pupils from Year 7 through to Year 11!

We are a large school but a school in which the many departments and staff knit together as a family. We regularly attend teaching and learning, business and pastoral briefings (twice weekly) and extended CPD opportunities focused on a wide range of issues such as safeguarding and the Visible Learning programme. The school harnesses a positive spirit, largely attributed to initiatives such as the enrichment programme, well-being champions, PIXL Edge and the house system.

We do hope you are excited about this opportunity and we look forward to receiving your application.