



# Bennett Memorial Diocesan School

## Design Technology Curriculum Area

The design technology team currently consists of two specialist teachers of product design supported by two further design technology teachers. We have a collaborative and supportive ethos in the department and always welcome new ideas. Students at Bennett are willing, interested and hard working, and the Bennett sixth form is one of the largest school sixth forms in the area. The school was judged to be Outstanding in every aspect in the December 2023 Ofsted inspection and results at both GCSE and A Level are exceptionally strong. Outcomes across the design technology curriculum area contribute very well to Bennett's outstanding results.

In Key Stage 3 students learn a broad framework of knowledge which is developed across Design Technology disciplines. We take the view that this provides a strong basis upon which students are able to move on to GCSE courses with mastery of the necessary core knowledge.

At present the school offers the AQA GCSE in design technology and GCSE art and design – textiles.

We offer A Level product design and A level textiles with positive numbers in current sixth form classes. Again, the school at present follows an AQA specification. The school has a clear focus on securing progression to aspirational higher education and the design technology disciplines have contributed to this strongly over a number of years.

The department is particularly well resourced and consists of three workshops for product design, which are well equipped with CAD/CAM equipment, including two CNC routers and two laser cutters and a 3D printer. In addition to this there are two textiles classrooms and a dedicated computer lab. All rooms also benefit from fully networked interactive whiteboards and we are particularly lucky to have a full time CAD/CAM technician, and a part time product design technician.

Having specialist capacity in product design would be desirable, but there is flexibility within the team. The most important requirement is an outstanding teacher with high aspirations for all students and a commitment to going the extra mile to achieve these.

As a designated Teaching School we can offer a wide range of professional development opportunities both within Bennett and our network of secondary schools. These include courses such as the outstanding teacher programme as well as leadership development programmes