Clevedon School Design & Technology Curriculum: Statement of Intent

"Strive for perfection in everything you do. Take the best that exists and make it better. When it does not exist, design it." - Sir Henry Royce

Purpose of study:

Our curriculum aims to connect students to the 'designed and made' world in which they live. Design & Technology related subjects including DT, Electronics, Food and Textiles are fundamental to empowering students to make well informed choices as they become the next generation of designers, makers and consumers in an ever-increasingly technological world. Students will apply technical knowledge to design, make and evaluate innovative solutions to real-life problems and opportunities. We want to ensure students understand the impact and consequences of consumption habits in a personal, local, national and global context. Sustainability (in all its forms) is embedded throughout our curriculum offer. Design & Technology subjects offer students the unique opportunity to learn about designing and making skills while applying them in a practical context to become resourceful and innovative citizens. In Food we prioritise the cooking of mainly savoury dishes to better equip students to make lifelong healthy and nutritious food choices.

The Clevedon way promotes character, ambition and community in our curriculum:

Applied creativity, technical knowledge and mastery of practical skills are explicitly taught and unique to this subject area. Our curriculum enables students to design and make products safely, confidently and independently while promoting the ability to critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others. Students leave us having gained valuable experience and skills managing projects. Project managers are organised, analytical and decisive leaders, all of which are highly important skills for life. Whether planning an affordable, healthy and sustainable menu or engineering a greener technological future. We aim to empower students with the confidence to seek creative solutions to life's challenges. We frame learning in personal, local and global contexts with sustainability at their core. Clevedon School 'designer-makers' aim to design and make a kinder and more brilliant future for all.

Our curriculum is ambitious for all learners:

Students solve real-world design and make challenges, where appropriate related to the ambitious 'Global Goals For Sustainable Development'. Learning is framed in a vocational context to help students visualise and consider STEM career paths. We raise aspirations by championing the value of continued education and work-based training opportunities in D&T and Food related sectors. We empower all pupils to be aspirational learners by ensuring full and equal access to resources, materials and ingredients regardless of their individual context and needs. All students are encouraged to develop the scope, depth and breadth of projects to constantly stretch and raise aspirations in order to become more enterprising and capable citizens. We use the 5C's to ensure all pupils access our aspirational curriculum offer.

Our curriculum is sequenced to enable our students to progress to brilliance:

The curriculum is a 7-year backwards planned model, to ensure pupils can access A Level Design and Technology at KS5. We return to our substantive concepts regularly to build up expertise in project management and problem solving through the creative application of technical concepts. Year on year the scope, depth and breadth of projects develop in complexity and demand. The iterative design process is interwoven in our curriculum. This creates a reflective and developmental culture in which we seek and embrace every 'failure' as a vital stage of building again better. The project-based curriculum model at KS3 is cyclical and lends itself perfectly to spaced practice and retrieval of design and make concepts and technical knowledge. Our KS3 projects follow the structure of A Level and GCSE D&T Non-Examined Assessments while embedding knowledge and skills needed for the examinations.