



GOSFORD HILL
SCHOOL

Design & Technology Department



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Our vision and aims (Intent):

- Creative Problem Solving: We aim to develop students as innovative and critical thinkers who can solve real-world problems through the design, development, and manufacture of quality products.
- Inclusive Ambition: Our curriculum is ambitious and inclusive for all, ensuring that all students – regardless of their prior experience or gender – can access a wide range of materials and technologies. We provide scaffolded support and adapted tasks so that every learner can experience the pride of taking a project from an initial concept to a finished prototype.
- Material Fluency: We intend for students to develop a deep understanding of the properties of materials, from timber and polymers in DT to the fibres and fabric in Textiles.
- Global Responsibility: We aim to foster an awareness of the impact of design on the world, teaching students about sustainability, ethical sourcing, and the "circular economy."



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Our approach to teaching (Implementation):

- Iterative Design: Our teaching follows an iterative "Design, Make, Evaluate" process. Students are taught to constantly reflect on and refine their ideas, moving back and forth between sketching, prototyping, and testing.
- Technical Mastery: We explicitly teach a broad range of technical skills, including the safe use of hand tools, complex machinery, and CAD/CAM (Computer-Aided Design and Manufacture), such as laser cutting.
- Specialist Pathways:
 - In Design and Technology, the focus is on structural integrity, mechanical systems, and the aesthetic and functional properties of "hard" materials.
 - In Textiles, students explore surface decoration and item construction
- Expert Modelling: Teachers use "Live Modelling" to demonstrate technical processes and safety protocols, ensuring students understand the precision required for high-quality outcomes.
- Knowledge Retrieval: We use retrieval practice to ensure students retain core theoretical knowledge, such as material classifications, manufacturing processes, and the work of influential designers.



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How we measure success (Impact):

- Tangible Outcomes: Students demonstrate success through the creation of functional, well-finished products that meet the needs of a specific target market or user.
- Technical Independence: Impact is evidenced by pupils' ability to select appropriate tools and materials independently, demonstrating a high level of technical proficiency and safety awareness.
- Analytical Reflection: Our learners show progress through their ability to critically evaluate their own prototypes, identifying where improvements can be made and explaining the science behind their material choices.
- Exam and Career Readiness: We measure success by how well students are prepared for GCSE, as well as their readiness for apprenticeships and careers in related areas.