

Information about the Design &Technology and Engineering Department

The Design & Technology and Engineering Department is part of The Faculty of Technologies, which comprises of the following departments:

* Computing and Business
* Food Studies and Health and Social Care
* Design Technology and Engineering

Currently there are Heads of Department for each discipline, with the faculty led by the Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning. The Faculty is ambitious and forward thinking and is popular with our students at KS4.

The Design & Technology and Engineering Department is currently staffed by an experienced member of staff with Engineering only taught at KS4.

At The Derby High School we ‘Inspire to Make a Difference’. We have high ambitions for all our students. We are passionate about improving life chances and are committed to providing an outstanding education. We want each and every one of our students to achieve exceptionally well and succeed in life.

The school is an oversubscribed 11-16 Co-Educational Comprehensive (currently 960 students on roll). We are situated in the North West of England in the heart of Bury, Greater Manchester and have good transport links to the city and neighbouring towns. The school's intake is truly comprehensive, with students from a diverse range of backgrounds.

The Derby High School, built in 1959, is an iconic building within the town with its distinctive look and extensive playing fields. Over recent years there have been some unique additions to the school, and these have enhanced our curriculum offer: a bespoke Performing Arts building, INSPIRE, three state of the art science laboratories, DISCOVER and a multimillion-pound Sports Hall, EXCEL. In 2018 we built a STEAM Garden, a cross-curricular outdoor learning space, designed by our students for the school and wider community. Two years ago, we opened CREATE, a purpose-built Design & Technology block that enables our students to develop skills working with various materials, Food and Nutrition, Engineering and CADCAM. Computing and Business lessons are taught in EXCITE. Reflecting our commitment to providing an outstanding education for our most vulnerable students we have also renovated an area of the school to house INCLUDE, a bespoke base for our SEND students

Our curriculum is based on a ‘Resilience Framework’. It is dynamic, challenging and engaging, enabling our students to excel in all areas in school and preparing them for their lives beyond high school. We offer a vast range of external excursions for every curriculum area, including to local colleges and universities, challenging stereotypes, raising aspirations, and engendering a sense of awe and wonder from the world around us.

There is a strong willingness to grow independent learners with the skills and experiences to thrive in a modern world. We prepare our students to become tomorrow's leaders through extensive opportunities to develop leadership skills. We are a school where all matter, and our pastoral care ensures our students feel safe and happy.

We believe that enabling our students to flourish and reach their true potential is what drives our staff and that is why we achieve outstanding Progress 8 scores year on year (P8: 2018 = +0.40, 2019 = +0.30, 2022 = +0.44, 2023 = +0.41, 2024 = +0.35). Our data puts us as the highest performing school in Bury since 2017. We are driven by strong moral values that place students at the centre of all we do and so we are particularly proud of the progress our Pupil Premium students make. This commitment to excellence will be unceasing. We want to make a difference to the lives of the young people we serve.

We firmly believe that The Derby High School has the capacity to raise attainment still further and that the school has the potential to develop as a leading proponent of forward-looking education. This view is shared by Governors and the leadership team. A strong and innovative Technologies Faculty is essential to realising this vision.

The Technologies Faculty has grown over recent years and we now offer a wide range of subjects across the key stages (Design & Technology, Food Studies, Engineering and Health & Social Care). Engineering and Health and Social Care are recent additions to our curriculum. We have healthy numbers of students opting for all Technology subjects at Key Stage 4. Students excel in Technologies, especially in Design and Technology (+0.81) and Food Studies (+0.27). We have only had one set of Health & Social Care results, and these indicated positive progress (+1.00). We eagerly await the results of our first cohort of Engineering students this summer.