WLA Technology Vision

Our curriculum is designed to give students a rich and varied experience across the Technology disciplines—**Textiles**, **Food Technology**, **Product Design**, and **Engineering**. We aim to ignite curiosity and creativity, helping students understand the real-world value of design and innovation in everyday life.

We provide exciting, hands-on projects that encourage students to explore materials, tools, and techniques with confidence. Whether they're designing garments, developing recipes, building prototypes, or solving engineering challenges, students are challenged and supported to take risks, experiment, and feel proud of their achievements.

Our curriculum builds technical knowledge and creative thinking, drawing inspiration from both historical and contemporary practitioners across each field. We encourage students to be original, aspirational, and reflective, applying their learning to a wide range of outcomes.

By the end of their journey, students will:

- Understand how creativity and problem-solving underpin every aspect of technology.
- Work independently and collaboratively to produce high-quality, purposeful outcomes.
- Develop the confidence to realise their ideas with precision, imagination, and ambition.

We aim to nurture the next generation of designers, makers, engineers, and innovators—equipping them with the skills and mindset to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Year 13

In Year 13, your personal investigation continues as you move toward completing your NEA or last units of coursework. You'll be challenged to reflect critically—not only on your own work, but also through feedback from teachers, peers and clients. This reflection is key to refining your ideas and producing outcomes that are thoughtful, innovative, and well-justified.

- Regular 1:1 feedback will support you in expanding and personalising your design practice, challenging you to push boundaries and develop responses that are both technically sound and conceptually strong.
- You'll be expected to engage with assessment criteria and review highly developed exemplar work to provoke ambition and guide your progress.
- Assessment Objectives will be consistently referenced to ensure your work meets the highest standards across both Product Design and Engineering.
- You'll also be shown standardisation materials and previous projects to help you understand what excellence looks like and how to achieve it in your own practice.

This final year is about consolidating your skills, deepening your understanding, and producing a portfolio that reflects your identity as a designer or engineer—ready for higher education, apprenticeships, or industry.

Year 12

In Year 12, you begin a more independent and ambitious phase of your A Level journey in **Product Design** and/ or **Engineering**.
Product Design You'll be challenged to develop a personal design pathway, starting from a curated selection of themes and sources of inspiration. This "taster" project allows you to explore ideas that align with your interests, applying the technical and creative knowledge you've built throughout your design education. You'll be expected to respond critically and thoughtfully—developing prototypes, models, and design solutions that are both personal and purposeful. Your work will reflect your ability to investigate, experiment, and justify your decisions using appropriate media, materials, and processes.**Engineering** You'll begin the start of your assignments towards your A Level, where you will be initially challenged with a research task to develop your understanding of technicials principles and a range of Engineering sectors. You will be set practical task where you will be challenged to independently analyse data, explore, experiment and create a suitable outcome.
Throughout the year:

- You'll be supported through 1:1 continuous feedback where staff will help you expand, refine, and personalise your ideas.
- You'll be encouraged to reflect critically on your progress, making meaningful design decisions that show depth and originality.
- Your responses will be shaped by ongoing feedback and assessment, designed to provoke ambition and push your practice further

Year 11

Whether you're specialising in **Textiles**, **Product Design**, or **Engineering**, you'll be challenged to take ownership of your ideas and develop work that reflects your individual interests and ambitions. You'll choose from a range of starting points and sources of inspiration, selecting themes that resonate with you. Using the knowledge and skills you've built throughout your Technology studies, you'll respond critically and creatively being challenged to develop designs, prototypes, or textile outcomes that are both personal and purposeful.
Textiles whilst completing your NEA you'll be challenged to explore materials, surface techniques, and construction methods to express your ideas through fabric and form.
Product Design whilst completing your NEA you'll be challenged to refine your designs to be functional, user-focused products using a range of tools, materials, and digital technologies.
Engineering you'll be challenged to accurately complete a practical engineering task set by the exam board, challenging yourself to remake components to ensure they are to the highest accuracy.
Throughout the year:

- You'll be encouraged to reflect on your progress and challenged to make independent decisions about media, techniques, and presentation.
- You'll regularly refer to assessment criteria and high-level exemplar work to help you understand what excellence looks like and how to achieve it.
- Feedback through DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) will support your growth, helping you refine your ideas and push your skills further.

Year 10

In Year 10, you begin your GCSE journey in Technology, choosing to specialise in **Textiles**, **Product Design**, **Engineering**, or a combination. You'll build a portfolio of work that showcases your ability whilst being challenged to develop ideas, refine techniques, and present personal and meaningful outcomes.
Textiles: you'll investigate themes and materials, being challenged to explore advanced processes such as printing, embroidery, and construction. You'll select your own sources of inspiration and experiment with media to create expressive and functional textile pieces.
Product Design: you'll explore how products are designed to solve real-world problems. You'll be challenged to develop ideas through sketching, modelling, and CAD, refining your designs with precision and purpose. You'll be encouraged to think critically about materials, sustainability, and user experience.
Engineering: you'll apply scientific and mathematical principles to design and make engineered solutions. You'll investigate a range of engineering principles and techniques communicating your ideas through technical drawings and prototypes. You'll be challenged to think logically and creatively.

Across all areas:

- You'll be challenged to think independently, selecting appropriate media and techniques to respond to design challenges.
- You'll reflect on your work and the work of others using specialist vocabulary.
- DIRT (Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time) comments and teacher guidance will help you refine your ideas and push your skills further.

Year 9

In Year 9, your Technology journey becomes even more ambitious. You'll explore even more skills, tools and materials you will be challenged to apply your creativity to your designs, recipes, and products while refining your technical skills and creative thinking.
Food Technology: you'll investigate how the human body interacts with food—exploring nutrition, presentation, and texture. You'll be challenged to design dishes that respond to specific requirement, using more complex cooking methods and reflecting on your choices with specialist vocabulary.
Textiles: you'll study proportion and structure through the lens of the human form. You'll be challenged to explore a wide range of artists and designers, selecting your own sources of inspiration to develop a personal and engaging design route.
Product Design: you'll design a product that respond to human needs, proportions, and ergonomics. You'll be challenged to refine your drawing and modelling skills, plan with precision, and choose materials that suit your design goals. You'll be challenged to personalise your project route, selecting your own influences and developing a unique outcome.

Across all areas:

- You'll reflect on your work and others' using accurate, subject-specific vocabulary.
- **Exit tickets** will be used to monitor your progress and guide your next steps.

Year 8

In Year 8, Technology becomes more ambitious and creative. You'll be challenged with new materials and projects across different disciplines, using it as inspiration to refine your practical skills and push your ideas further.
Food Technology: you'll explore how texture and presentation affect the eating experience, you will cook a range of dishes and be challenged to independently adapt and select ingredients. You'll use feedback to improve your skills and be challenged to creativity make developments.
Textiles: you'll experiment with texture and surface design, using techniques like lino printing and screen printing to create bold and imaginative fabric pieces, you'll be challenged by taking both an independent and collaborative approach to your work.
Product Design: you'll design and make a product looking at cams and gears. You will be challenged to select cams that improve your design and take risks to independently create your design idea.
Across all areas:

- You'll choose your own designs and ideas, deciding how far to challenge your technical skills.
- You'll reflect on your work and others' using accurate design and subject-specific vocabulary.
- Exit tickets will be used to track your progress and help you reflect on your journey.

Year 7

In Year 7 Technology, you'll explore exciting new materials, tools, and techniques that go beyond what you may have experienced in primary school. Whether you're cooking in the kitchen, stitching in the textiles room, or designing in the workshop, you'll be challenged to experiment, problem-solve, and think creatively.
Food Technology: you'll learn essential cooking skills and explore nutrition, you'll be challenged to understand how ingredients work together. You'll be expected to follow recipes accurately and reflect on taste, texture, and health, whilst being challenged on adaptations and improvements for future.
Textiles: you'll discover how to work with fabrics, threads, and patterns, you will develop skills in hand and machine sewing. You will be challenged to explore colour and texture, which some additional challenging techniques that you can apply.
Product Design: you'll work with materials such as plastic and card to create practical products. You'll be encouraged and challenged to take risks with your designs using CAD within your design.
Throughout all areas:

- You'll be given choices in how you approach tasks.
- You'll regularly reflect on your own work and give thoughtful feedback to others.
- Exit tickets and other tools will help track your progress and guide your learning.