

Design & Technology Year 7 Curriculum Overview



Year 7 Overview

Throughout the year, students develop foundational skills in design and practical manufacturing through a series of creative projects. The curriculum begins with an essential focus on **health and safety in the workshop**, ensuring students understand hazards, risks, and safe practices when using tools and machinery. Next, learners explore **materials and sustainability**, gaining knowledge about plastics, their properties, recycling processes, and the environmental impact of plastic pollution. Building on this, students undertake the **Acrylic Keyring Project**, where they apply design principles to create sea-life-themed keyrings. This includes generating and annotating design ideas, peer evaluation, and refining final designs. In the latter part of the year, emphasis shifts to **practical skills**, such as using coping saws, creating templates, drilling, and finishing acrylic products to a high standard.

In the **Spring & Summer Term**, students move into textiles with the **Mini Monsters Project**, where they design and manufacture a felt soft toy inspired by the doodle art style of Jon Burgerman. The project begins with artist research and the development of a design brief and specification, followed by creating multiple annotated design ideas. Students then learn essential textile skills, including threading needles, tying knots, and mastering stitches such as running, back, and blanket stitch. They create templates, cut felt accurately, and assemble their mini monsters with hand-stitched embellishments. The project emphasizes creativity, precision, and safe use of textile tools, culminating in a finished product and an evaluation of design and making processes.

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Week Number	Themes/ Topics	Key Knowledge & Skills	Key Assessments
Autumn HT1	Health & Safety in the Workshop	- Understand hazards, risks, and precautions - Correct use of PPE (goggles, aprons, gloves) - Safe behavior and machine safety - Teamwork and hazard identification	- Health & Safety Passport activity - Scenario role-play - Class Charts quiz
Autumn HT2 & Spring HT1	Polymers – Keyring	- What plastics are and their properties - Recycling process and environmental impact - Thermoset vs Thermoplastic - Plastic pollution and its effects - Generate creative design ideas - Apply design principles (size, curves, no cut-outs) - Annotate designs with reasoning - Peer assessment and evaluation - Safe use of coping saw - Cutting straight, curved, and wavy lines - Create and use templates - Marking out acrylic accurately - Drill holes using pillar drill safely - Cut acrylic accurately - File and sand edges for smooth finish - Identify thermosets vs thermoplastics	- 4 detailed design ideas with annotation - Peer assessment sheet - Final design drawing (100mm x 100mm) - Completed acrylic keyring - Practical assessment of tool use - Final evaluation of product
Spring HT2	Textiles – Mini Monsters	- Artist research: Jon Burgerman and doodle art influence - Understanding design brief and specification (ACCESS FM) - Developing creative design ideas with annotation	- Artist research poster - 4 annotated design ideas - Peer assessment (WWW & EBI) - Final design drawing and evaluation
Summer Term	Textiles – Mini Monsters	- Template creation and accurate cutting - Textile techniques: threading, knotting, running stitch, back stitch, blanket stitch - Safe use of textile tools and equipment - Assembly and finishing of felt soft toy	- Practical assessment: stitching accuracy and construction - Completed Mini Monster soft toy