

DAY IN THE LIFE

Welcome to the Design Technology Department

Joining our team means becoming part of a close-knit, forward-thinking department dedicated to excellence and innovation. Led by our Head of Department, Mrs. Sue Effa, our team consists of three subject specialists who are passionate about changing the narrative around Design Technology for our students.

We pride ourselves on being a supportive team that values work-life balance and professional growth. With dedicated DT spaces and specialist classrooms, you will have the environment and resources you need to deliver high-quality, hands-on lessons. Our department is backed by a committed SLT line manager who understands the unique challenges and rewards of teaching a practical, technical subject.

Our Vision: Design, Making & Progress

We operate within a strong, clear school structure that provides the "safety net" of consistency while allowing individual teachers the autonomy to shine. We are currently in an exciting phase of moving our pedagogy forward, focusing on:

- **Evidence-based teaching:** Enhancing student skill acquisition and material mastery.
- **Collaborative planning:** Sharing best practices and project resources to reduce workload.
- **Proven success:** Our results are on a significant upward trajectory, with **2025 marking a standout year of success and our 2026 projections currently on track** to continue this trend.

Our Curriculum Journey

We believe Design Technology should be an evolving conversation between creativity and technical precision, not just a series of isolated projects.

- Key Stage 3: We have implemented an innovative "Design and Making" curriculum designed to spark curiosity and build a rock-solid foundation across four core pillars: Resistant Materials, Graphics, Textiles, and Food Technology.
- Key Stage 4: We offer a diverse range of pathways that allow students to specialize and deepen their expertise in vocational and academic areas:

Core Areas - Key Focus & Subjects

ENGINEERING

Understanding mechanics, electronics, and precision manufacturing

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

Professional food preparation, nutrition, and industry standards.

TEXTILES

Material science, fashion design, and complex construction.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Human development, care values, and public health sectors.

What Our Students Say

"I used to think I wasn't 'creative,' but the way my teacher breaks down the engineering drawings into small steps really helped me gain confidence." — **Current Year 11 Student**

"DT is the one subject where I see how everything works. It helps me in Science when we talk about materials and in Maths when we have to be precise with measurements." — **Year 10 Student**

Key Responsibilities: The Role of a DT Specialist

As one of our three specialists, your role will be a blend of high-level technical delivery and collaborative innovation:

- **Championing the KS4 Pathways:** You will deliver specialist specifications (such as Engineering or Textiles), ensuring that students don't just "finish a project" but master the underlying technical principles.
- **Driving the KS3 Innovation:** Contribute to our redesigned "Design and Making" curriculum, helping to shape how we hook students' interest in Graphics and Resistant Materials from Year 7.
- **Collaborative Excellence:** You'll work closely with Mrs. Sue Effa and the team, sharing resources and strategies to ensure our results continue their record-breaking trend.
- **Pedagogical Growth:** You will actively engage in departmental CPD, trialing new methods to make complex technical concepts—from electronic circuits to nutritional analysis—accessible and engaging.

Why Perryfields?

- **A Culture of "Shining":** While we have a strong school-wide structure to manage behavior, we loathe "cookie-cutter" teaching. Whether you love the grit of the workshop or the precision of the kitchen, we give you the platform to let your passion shine.
- **Momentum You Can Feel:** Coming off our successful 2025 results, there is a palpable sense of pride in our department. You are joining a winning team that is moving forward with confidence.
- **A State-of-the-Art Future:** This is an incredible time to join us. We are moving into a brand-new school build in September 2028. You will help transition our department into landmark facilities where our DT spaces will reach entirely new levels of excellence.
- **The Broadleaf Advantage:** As part of the Broadleaf Partnership Trust, you benefit from a network of excellence and shared resources across the trust.

A Day in the Life: The Perryfields DT Specialist

08:15 – The Creative Hub: You arrive and head to the DT area. Because our three specialists are clustered together, there's no trekking across the school; Mrs. Effa and the team are right there. You might discuss using departmental AI tools to generate bespoke design briefs or safety quizzes, saving you 30 minutes of prep.

09:30 – The "Warm-Strict" Magic: Period 1 begins. At Perryfields, we use a Warm-Strict approach. Because the school structure is so robust, you aren't "policing" behavior; you're teaching. This clarity allows the "Warm" side to shine—you can joke with Year 9 about a 3D printing error because they know the boundaries.

11:00 – High-Tech Precision: In your Year 11 Engineering lesson, students are using their Chromebooks to live-track their project progress or run CAD simulations. Whether it's using AI to differentiate a technical drawing task or using interactive software to visualize 3D assemblies, the tech at Perryfields is there to amplify your expertise.

15:45 – Looking Toward 2028: The day ends with a "Look Forward." We might be reviewing the blueprints for the **new workshop layouts in the 2028** build or discussing a leadership coaching session you have scheduled through the Trust. You leave knowing your workload is managed and you are part of a school literally building its future.

Are you ready to join us? If you are a specialist who is passionate about design, making, and everything in between, visit our website at www.perryfieldsacademy.co.uk to find out more about us. We encourage you to reach out for an informal chat to see our innovation in action.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

We are committed to equality and value diversity, and therefore particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups.

This post is covered by Part 7 of the Immigration Act (2016) and therefore the ability to speak fluent and spoken English is an essential requirement for this role.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the amendments to the Exceptions Order 1975, 2013 and 2020, which means certain spent convictions and cautions are 'protected', so they do not need to be disclosed to employers. If they are disclosed, they will not be taken into account.