



HEADTEACHER
Mr G Pendlebury
DEPUTY HEADTEACHER
Mr N Maguire

22ND June 2026

Preferences for Design & Technology for the Next Academic Year

Dear Parent/Carer,

This year in Year 8, Design & Technology students have studied two of the following four subjects:

- Food & Nutrition
- Textiles
- Graphics
- Resistant Materials

For Year 9, we will be continuing this process; however, the range of subjects on offer will change. Students will now be able to study two of the following three subject areas:

- Food & Nutrition
- Textiles
- Product Design (incorporating Resistant Materials and Graphics)

Within each subject area, we can begin to embed GCSE-standard knowledge and skills, with students working on exciting projects over an approximate 18-week period.

We ask that students rank the three subject areas in order of preference, selecting a first, second and third choice. Students will be allocated two subjects for Year 9, and we will endeavour to accommodate preferences as far as possible. Whilst every effort will be made to allocate students to their preferred subjects, this cannot be guaranteed due to class size limits and health and safety restrictions within specialist teaching areas.

Please discuss with your son/daughter which subject areas within Design & Technology they would most like to study in Year 9, with a view towards possible GCSE options in the future.

To make their preferences, your son/daughter will receive an email on their school email address. The email will contain a link to a Microsoft Forms survey. The survey has two parts: firstly, a questionnaire to reflect upon the Year 8 experience of Design & Technology at Great Marlow School, and secondly, the Year 9 D&T preference process.

The survey can only be completed once per student, so please check all responses carefully before submitting.

To access school email accounts, students should go online to the school website and click on 'MS 365 Email' located within the red band at the bottom of the screen. Students can then use their regular school login username and password to access their emails but must add the standard GMS suffix to the login username:

schoolusername@gms.bucks.sch.uk

There are a limited number of spaces available within each subject area due to health and safety restrictions within D&T. However, we will not be operating on a first-come, first-served basis. This means that students can take time to properly consider their preferences before making their selections. Students who do not complete the survey by the deadline will be allocated to subject groups only after those who have submitted their preferences have been accommodated. It is therefore important that all students complete the survey to maximize the likelihood of receiving their preferred subject choices.

Historically, most students have been allocated one of their strongest preferences.

We will endeavour to communicate the resulting subject allocations to students at the earliest opportunity.

The survey link will be sent to students by email before the survey opens, although the link will not be active at that time. Students can use this opportunity to check that they have received the email successfully.

The survey is now live and will close on **Sunday 28th June 2025**.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Taylor
Head of Design & Technology