

## Westcliff High School for Girls

### Design and Technology: Food & Textiles Department

Food and Textiles Technology is a busy, thriving department based in the Design Technology faculty with a team of two full-time teaching staff and full-time technical support.

The department area is managed separately from the other subject areas of Design Technology, although approaches, schemes of work and coursework structures are very similar. The School embraces the work of Design and Technology and hence Food and Textiles expects to make a valued and worthwhile contribution towards meeting the School's targets and wider agenda on this initiative.

Food and Textiles Technology is committed to the principles of designing and making high quality products which fully meet a clearly identified and defined need. Students are encouraged to acquire knowledge and skills which they apply to design problems set within a food or textiles context. Practical work involving making skills using varied material resources is considered very important and a high standard of technical skills is expected and encouraged at all levels. Food and Textiles Technology studies the industrial context in all schemes of work from simple manufacturing techniques in Year 7, to full industrial case studies carried out at examination level. Educational and/or recreational trips are often arranged for GCSE classes.

The department benefits from very good facilities and excellent technical support from a full-time technician.

The two food rooms are fully equipped, well resourced and kept to a high standard of organisation and cleanliness, so they are a pleasure to work in and students enjoy these environments. Textiles Technology has one newly refurbished room in the main building, and a second, purpose-built room which is situated in the new Science and Engineering building adjacent to the Science faculty.

Food and Textiles Technology is a forward looking, innovative and hard-working department, focused on delivering high quality learning experiences to students in both Food and Textiles contexts. We have excellent continuity and progression in our courses, particularly in Textiles, whereby at A level students study Textile Art and Graphic Communication, creating exciting sketchbooks for entry into some of the most prestigious Art colleges in the country. Food is not currently offered at A level.

We consider ourselves to be successful, resourceful, and highly receptive to new ideas, inspirations and approaches to better ways of working, with the overall aim of helping and advising students towards greater achievement in their Design and Technology education.