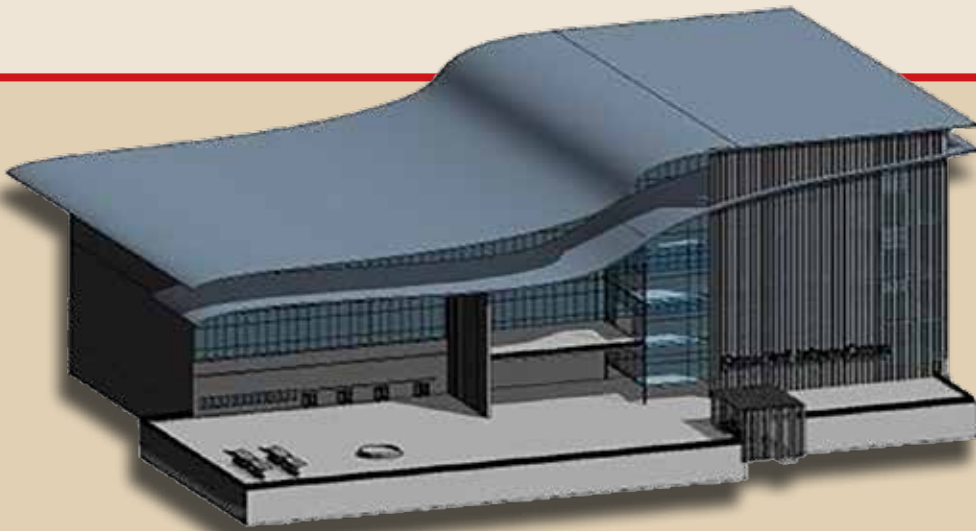


# More House School

Charles Stewart



**M**ore House School, Farnham, Surrey is nationally celebrated as a centre for excellence and graded Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted. Our school boasts a rich, 80-year history of supporting boys, from age 8 to 18, with Specific Learning and Language difficulties and associated conditions, in realising successes far beyond their expectations and transforming their futures. Our academic results at GCSE, A Level and BTEC are consistently above the national average, but the education experienced by students here is much broader than exam syllabus prescription. Many arrive with little self-confidence, and as one community we build pupils' academic, creative, sport and social achievement. A wide curriculum of academic subjects is complemented by an inspiring extra-curricular programme, so that each boy is successful amongst his peers, and learns to recognise that success.

## Adapting to needs

Since no other school is like us, even experienced teachers who join us from other settings find that they need to shift gears when they start here. When every boy has a learning difference, no individual or class is the same. Work cannot be recycled, and individual interaction is key, getting to know every boy and their particular set of needs is essential. It is intense. Great teaching skills are not just useful, we need them to survive.

There is a lot that cannot be taught. In our recruitment we look for staff who are flexible in their outlook, able to think about and adapt material on their feet and interested in education beyond their subject. Even a deep knowledge of Special Needs is not enough; our teachers need to be wise practitioners, understanding that supporting language can make a world of difference, knowing how a struggling working memory, processing difficulty or weak executive function

can affect a learning experience. These are live, active, everyday realities that our staff are constantly addressing in the classroom.

## So, what is different?

Nothing replaces the day-in, day-out rigor of the classroom, the tutor group and the life of school. That is our tough basic training. However, we run a training session every week after school for new staff during their first year of employment to try and help make sense of it all. This covers a range of angles to help new staff to be strategic in how they support SEND students in the classroom, through therapy groups, our pastoral system and boarding provision.



We are lucky enough to have a fully equipped, purpose-built centre, with two mixed material workshops, an engineering / metal workshop, a CAD suite and a dedicated cooking space. All this allows students to experience Design and Technology from a young age and enables intermingling of staff, students and different subjects, creating a continuous, collaborative effort. The department has six teaching staff, all of whom are specialists in their subject area, ably supported by our technician. All staff bring a diverse range of skills and experience to the department which allows us to offer a wide variety of GCSE, A Level, TQUK and BTEC courses. Ultimately, we believe that a student's enjoyment towards the subject is as important and very much linked to the results they will eventually achieve.

### Early start

It starts in Year 4 when they get their first taste of the department and the design and technology field. Each junior lesson starts with basic skills and core knowledge that covers all the basics of our subject at GCSE level. We utilise booklets with a writing frame which works well for many of our students and are easy to store, organise and mark. This learning is built upon with practical projects which encourage students to research, draw, develop, make, and evaluate their own designs. We have a strong drive to get the younger boys to understand the environment and they can learn so much from both the natural and manmade world around them. We have introduced 2D and 3D computer-aided design at an early age and find that some excel in this area. We are keen that in the junior years, all students have a practical outcome to take home. This is important for their

self-esteem and serves as a reminder of their success in technology for years to come. In Year 9 the students opt to choose a specific subject area to study for a year before choosing whether to study it at exam level during Years 10 and 11.

### Level 1/2 BTEC First Award in Engineering

This award is a vocational and academic qualification that gives our students the opportunity to gain specific knowledge and understanding in practical engineering skills and the engineering world around us. The course gives learners an opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the engineering sector whilst developing academic, communication and practical skills such as welding, milling, using the lathes and hand techniques. It also helps develop skills in English and Mathematics that relate to workplace scenarios.

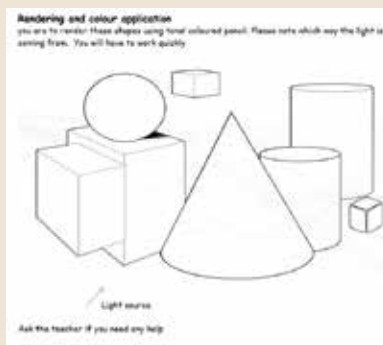
### GCSE Design and Technology and A Level Product Design

We present senior D&T as a creative and collaborative process and aim to encourage an individual's tastes, talents and interests to come through in their work. Due to the diverse needs of the students, our learning approaches are constantly evolving to encourage more physical experimentation, problem solving, active and visual learning which run alongside the exam board requirements but also look ahead to further education and industry. We entered Design Ventura for the first-time last year and were thrilled to be winners of the 2019 Independent & International School's Category.



Name	Origin	Colour	Properties and working features	Uses	Image
Beech	UK	Paleish	Close-grained, hard wearing and strong. Finishes well.	Furniture, toys, kitchen utensils.	
Oak	UK	Light brown.	Tough and durable. Finishes well.	Joinery, furniture, garden furniture.	
Ash	UK	Pale cream	Tough and flexible. Can be bent if steamed. Open grained.	Tool handles, lorrywheels, sports equipment.	
Mahogany	Equatorial countries	Reddish pink-brown	Durable and easy to work. Some difficult antisepticking agents.	Outdoor furniture, ship fittings.	
Teak	Indian sub-continent	Golden brown	Strong and durable. Resistant to rotting. Chemical resistance.	Outdoor furniture, boats.	

A wide range of worksheets helps students at all levels.





# Specific Learning and Language difficulties

## TQUK Level 2 and Level 3, Design...Engineer...Construct!

The 'Design Engineer Construct!' ('DEC') Learning Programme, created by education consultancy Class Of Your Own (COYO), offers a unique opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills fundamental to successful engagement in the professional aspects of architecture, engineering and construction. We are proud to be the first school for students with specific learning difficulties to offer DEC level 2 and 3 and have delivered the programme since 2015. The course has a very practical design focus and teaches industry-standard digital modelling skills which are easily transferrable into the working world. Students also benefit from learning the importance of teamwork, time-management and communication, and as a result, many continue their studies at university and apprenticeships.

Through COYO's 'Adopt A School' scheme, we have a long-term partnership with Laing O'Rourke (a multinational construction company), which enables our students to gain real first-hand experience in the world of digital engineering through professional talks and critique sessions in the classroom, organised visits to building sites and the provision of work experience.

COYO's 'Future Infrastructure Programme' launches this year following the success of a design challenge involving four leading DEC schools, hosted by leading US infrastructure software sponsors Bentley Systems at their prestigious London offices. Teams were challenged to initiate and conceptualise the design of a hyperloop transport system and station in Singapore. More House School students, with the support of leading architects Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners, developed and presented exceptional projects and were awarded 'best creative design' by a judging panel of distinguished professionals.



## BTEC in Home Cooking Skills

This course is based on the proposition that being able to cook is an essential life skill which empowers students to make changes that have benefits to health and wellbeing. Students begin by learning about the main food groups that together provide a healthy, balanced diet, and are then introduced to a range of simple dishes and learn different food preparation and cooking techniques. As they develop, they learn to cook more complex dishes safely and hygienically, and consider the factors that affect food choice, seasonality and food availability. We aim to offer the skills and confidence to enjoy cooking at home, to continue cooking for themselves and their families, and to inspire others.

## Building future potential

As a department, we are lucky enough to have the time and resources to allow students to explore the subject independently, to expand and realise their ideas, make mistakes and learn from them. We feel that this process is vital for students to ensure they are best prepared for their future education and careers. We celebrate the design successes of our students with an annual display of students' work and social media broadcasts, and are seeing year on year increased uptake of the subject. More House recognises that a focus on Design and Technology related subjects is a must in the 21st century education system and we feel it is critical to deliver the D&T curriculum in such a way as to ensure students' potential is realised, and they are fully equipped to enter any of the rapidly expanding pathways of their choosing.



We offer free, accredited training to other professionals in education through our regular Spotlight Training Sessions (see school website or contact [spotlight@morehouseschool.co.uk](mailto:spotlight@morehouseschool.co.uk)). Please join us – we'd welcome your partnership in the vital work of equipping mainstream classroom teachers to give their SEND students every chance of success.

If you are keen to see what we do in the department at More House School, please email Charles Stewart at: [cstewart@morehouseschool.co.uk](mailto:cstewart@morehouseschool.co.uk).