



**HIGHAM LANE  
NORTH ACADEMY**

# Parent Guide - Design Technology

**How to help your child succeed**

# EXPLORE ENGINEERING AT HOME

ENGINEERING CONCEPTS CAN BE EXPLORED THROUGH SIMPLE ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

- Building with construction kits
- Creating structures from recycled materials
- Exploring how levers, gears or mechanisms work in everyday objects

# ENCOURAGE ORGANISATION

BEING ORGANISED IS IMPORTANT IN DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY, PARTICULARLY WHEN PREPARING FOR PRACTICAL LESSONS. SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN REMEMBERING INGREDIENTS, EQUIPMENT OR HOMEWORK WILL HELP THEM FEEL CONFIDENT AND PREPARED.

# BUILD CONFIDENCE IN COOKING

IN FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION, STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT NUTRITION, FOOD PREPARATION AND COOKING SKILLS. ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO HELP AT HOME WITH TASKS SUCH AS:

- Chopping vegetables
- Measuring ingredients
- Following recipes
- Preparing simple meals



# OBSERVE THE DESIGNED WORLD

ASK YOUR CHILD QUESTIONS ABOUT THE  
PRODUCTS AROUND THEM:

- How does this work?
- Why has it been designed this way?
- What materials has it been made from?

# ENCOURAGE PROBLEM-SOLVING

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY IS ABOUT THINKING  
CREATIVELY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS. ENCOURAGE YOUR  
CHILD TO THINK ABOUT HOW EVERYDAY OBJECTS  
WORK AND HOW THEY MIGHT BE IMPROVED:

- What problem does this product solve?
- What materials are used and why?
- How could it be improved?

# ENCOURAGE REFLECTION AND IMPROVEMENT

STUDENTS REGULARLY EVALUATE THEIR DESIGNS  
AND PRACTICAL WORK. YOU CAN HELP BY ASKING:

- "What part of your project are you most proud of?"
- "What would you do differently next time?"
- "How did your design meet your original plan?"
- "What would make it even better?"



**HIGHAM LANE  
NORTH ACADEMY**

**You do not need to be a designer to support your child at home!**

**The most powerful ways you can help are:**

-  Encouraging exploration and experimentation
-  Supporting planning and organisation
-  Showing interest in what they are learning
-  Celebrating effort and creativity

**Design Technology helps students express themselves and develop practical skills for life and your encouragement at home makes a big difference.**