

# 'The Aspiring Fashion and Textile Designer.'

KS4/5



CHELTENHAM  
BOURNSIDE  
SCHOOL

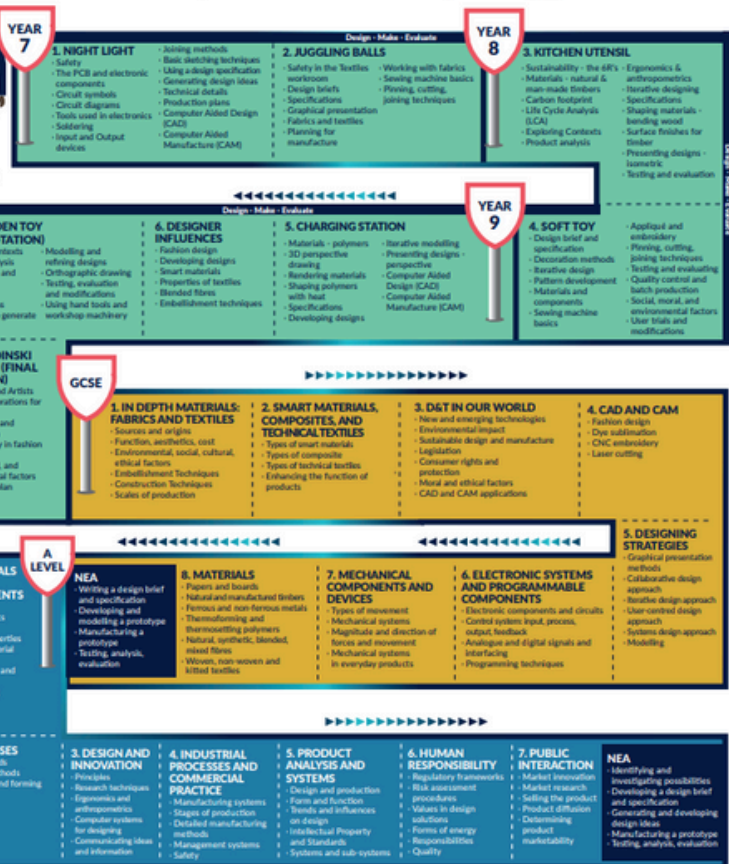


Inspiring lives through learning

# 'The Aspiring Fashion and Textile Designer'



## D&T TEXTILES



# 'The Aspiring Fashion and Textile Designer'



Fashion and Textiles is where creativity meets culture, shaping the way we express ourselves and the world we live in. From the clothes we wear every day to innovative fabrics that drive sustainability, textiles are at the heart of human experience. Studying this subject opens doors into a vibrant industry that combines artistry, craftsmanship, technology, and critical thinking.

This course is not just about learning how to make garments – it's about exploring the bigger picture: how trends evolve, how designers communicate ideas, and how materials can transform both aesthetics and performance. Every piece of fashion tells a story of identity, society, and innovation.

By engaging with this programme of super-curricular activities – reading, watching, experimenting, and immersing yourself in design practice – you will begin to understand how the past, present, and future of fashion connect. You'll ask questions such as: Why do certain designs become iconic? How can textiles be sustainable? What role does fashion play in shaping culture and personal identity?

Fashion & Textiles is an exciting, ever-evolving field. The more you explore beyond the classroom, the more you'll see how creativity can influence change – and how your vision can shape the future.

## **Mrs Alat**

Assistant Head of Design and Technology

# Reading list



## **The Fashion System by Roland Barthes**

A foundational text that goes beyond garments to explore how fashion communicates meaning. Barthes examines fashion as a language, analysing how clothing conveys cultural values, identity, and symbolism. This book challenges you to think critically about fashion beyond trends, and to consider how garments “speak” in wider social and historical contexts.

## **Fashion Design: The Complete Guide by John Hopkins**

A practical, comprehensive resource for students beginning their fashion journey. It covers the design process step-by-step: research, sketching, fabric selection, garment construction, and presentation. The book includes contemporary examples, portfolio guidance, and insights into the industry, making it both inspiring and useful for developing your own design projects.

## **Fashionopolis: The Price of Fast Fashion and the Future of Clothes by Dana Thomas**

This is essential reading for anyone interested in sustainability and ethics in fashion. Thomas investigates the global impact of fast fashion on the environment, workers, and culture, while also highlighting innovative designers and companies pioneering sustainable practices. It will help you see how your creative choices as a designer can shape a more responsible future.

## **Textiles: The Art of Mankind by Mary Schoeser**

A visually stunning survey of textiles across cultures and centuries. This book showcases how materials, techniques, and traditions have influenced.



# Competitions



## CEP Young Designers (Gloucestershire)

- Local competition run by the Cheltenham Education Partnership.
- Theme example: "Wearable Art". Suitable for Year 9–13, including Fashion & Textiles students.
- Great for building portfolio pieces locally and getting feedback from local teachers and peers.



## Young Fashion Designer UK

- National competition for GCSE & A-Level students and those aged 11–14 in textiles/fashion studies.
- Each year has a theme; current example: "Eco Thread Challenge – transform the threads of yesterday to the fabrics of tomorrow."
- Students submit worksheets, design development, possibly fabrics / outfits. Good for creativity + sustainability topics.



## Junk Kouture

- International competition (with UK regional rounds) where students design haute couture using recycled materials.
- In Gloucestershire, students from local schools have already been finalists.
- Excellent for exploring upcycling, sustainability, and creative design under constraints.



## Student Textile Artist Competition (Textiles Skills Centre)

- National competition open to KS4 & KS5 students.
- Entries include images of completed textile artwork + description of inspiration and techniques.
- Helps develop portfolio, experiment with textile techniques, show off craftsmanship.

# Listen and Watch



## Podcasts



### **The Business of Fashion Podcast**

A leading industry podcast covering global fashion news, business insights, and interviews with designers, CEOs, and creatives. Episodes explore sustainability, technology, diversity, and the cultural role of fashion. Great for understanding how design connects with the wider industry.



### **Fashion Unzipped (The Telegraph)**

An accessible podcast hosted by fashion journalists discussing trends, catwalk shows, and cultural shifts. Ideal for keeping up-to-date with the latest developments and how fashion reflects society today.



### **Wardrobe Crisis with Clare Press**

Hosted by Vogue's first Sustainability Editor, this podcast focuses on ethical fashion, slow fashion, and the future of textiles. It highlights designers, activists, and innovators working to make fashion more responsible and sustainable.



### **Dressed: The History of Fashion**

This podcast dives into the history of clothing and textiles across cultures and time. It's engaging, research-based, and gives you valuable context for how fashion evolves, linking the past to current practice.



### **Fashion Revolution Podcast**

Created by the global movement campaigning for ethical fashion, this series uncovers the hidden stories behind clothes — from supply chains to labour rights to new sustainable practices. Inspiring for students interested in the social impact of textiles.



# Listen and Watch

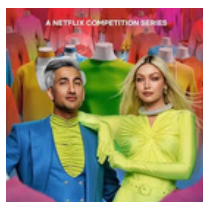


## Films/YouTube/TV



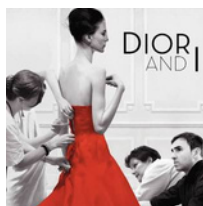
### **The True Cost (Documentary, 2015)**

A powerful film exploring the impact of fast fashion on people and the planet. It highlights the environmental consequences of textile production and the human cost of cheap clothing. Essential for understanding the ethics of fashion.



### **Next in Fashion (Netflix Series)**

A design competition where emerging designers from around the world create garments under pressure. It's fast-paced, creative, and inspiring for seeing how ideas are developed into finished runway pieces.



### **Dior and I (Film, 2014)**

This behind-the-scenes documentary follows Raf Simons as he prepares his first haute couture collection for Dior. It shows the craftsmanship, creativity, and teamwork involved in high-end fashion.



### **Alexa Chung: The Future of Fashion (YouTube / British Vogue)**

A YouTube series where model and presenter Alexa Chung investigates the fashion industry – from sustainability to digital innovation – through interviews with designers, students, and industry leaders.



### **McQueen (Film, 2018)**

A moving documentary about the life and work of designer Alexander McQueen. It combines personal storytelling with incredible visuals, showing how creativity and emotion can shape fashion at the highest level.

# Listen and Watch



## Social media



### **British Vogue (@britishvogue)**

Covers fashion shows, designer interviews, and cultural conversations. Great for trend awareness and industry news.



### **The Fashion Archive (@fashion\_archive\_)**

Instagram & YouTube account breaking down runway collections and fashion history in an accessible way.



### **Fashion Revolution (@fash\_rev)**

Global movement promoting ethical and sustainable fashion, with campaigns, resources, and industry insights.



### **Diet Prada (@diet\_prada)**

Famous for fashion critique and calling out plagiarism, cultural appropriation, and industry controversies. Sharp and thought-provoking.



### **ShowStudio (@showstudio)**

Founded by Nick Knight, this platform explores experimental fashion films, live-streamed shows, and creative collaborations.



### **Drapers (@drapers)**

Industry-focused account covering fashion business, retail, and career insights. Helpful for understanding the business side of textiles.



### **Susie Lau / Style Bubble (@susiebubble)**

Influential blogger turned fashion commentator



# Work Experience and Events



Work experience in a fashion or textiles-related setting is an invaluable part of a student's learning journey. It provides first-hand exposure to the creative and technical processes behind designing, producing, and marketing garments and textiles. Students see how ideas move from concept to prototype to finished product, giving context to the skills they develop in the classroom.

Beyond practical knowledge, work experience helps students develop essential workplace skills such as teamwork, time management, communication, and problem-solving. It also provides insight into the challenges professionals face, from meeting client requirements and deadlines to sourcing sustainable materials and considering ethical production practices.

Importantly, work experience enhances university, apprenticeship, and job applications by demonstrating initiative, commitment, and genuine interest in the fashion and textiles industry. It helps students make informed career choices while building confidence and professionalism.

In short, work experience bridges the gap between theory and practice, allowing students to apply their creativity in real-world settings, develop vital skills, and gain a clearer understanding of potential career paths within the dynamic world of fashion and textiles.

# Work Experience and Events



## **Unlocking Fashion: Virtual Work Experience**

Dive into the realm of fashion with our virtual work experience program. This program provides an immersive experience within the industry.



## **Fashion University Taster | Springpod**

Exploring the world of fashion and fashion communication. You will be set a project to consider your clothes and how you can do more to save the planet.



## **Early Careers | New Look Group**

Dreaming of a job in fashion? Apply for a work experience placement. You will get an insight into what it's like to work for a world-class leading fashion retailer. We offer placements in Buying, PR and Design



## **How to Volunteer at London Fashion Week**

Identify the brands participating and reach out directly, as they often look for extra help and volunteers for their shows.



## **John Lewis Partnership - Virtual Work Experience**

Incredible skills all pulling together to achieve the John Lewis Partnership vision. It's time to experience that for yourself!



## **Working at Superdry Head Office | Superdry Careers**

While Superdry do not tend to offer work experience in their stores they have been known to offer work experience in their Head Office in Cheltenham



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

**[Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.](#)**

