

King Alfred's College of Higher Education, Winchester

The department of Design & Technology forms part of the School of Science and Technology, and is housed in purpose-built accommodation in a single building on the campus. This is a thriving and friendly place to work, with eight full-time members of academic staff some of whom come from backgrounds in product and interior design and others from primary and secondary education. Recent developments include successful design consultancy work for industrial clients, and a move to a closer relationship with the College's Art & Design department. New courses are also under development, including fields in Product Design, Concurrent Engineering, and Technology & Society for the Modular BA/BSc., and new teacher education courses to meet the changing demands of the subject.

Four major courses are currently offered, three of them concerned with teacher education. All have a strong practical foundation and offer opportunities to work on both individual and

group projects to develop a range of skills in designing and manufacturing products. While each course is distinctive in its own right, students also benefit from meeting the whole spectrum of skills and approaches brought by colleagues on other courses, through modules and course elements which are jointly taught. Thus, students following the BA in Design & Technology share work in their first year with students on the 2-year BEd. course, and in their final year share Technology & Society modules with final-year students on the BA in Primary Education. Use of the open-plan workshop encourages students to discuss work in progress with each other as well as with tutors and demonstrators. The wide variety of possibilities of work in this area is summed up in the words of one new graduate: 'The broad base gives you a good grounding . . . there are so many sorts of designing, you need to have flexibility'.

A Design & Technology Field is offered in the College's distinctive Combined Studies Modular BA/BSc. This Field can be taken in a variety of combinations, as Single Honours, or combined with other Fields. Students who think that they might be interested in a teaching career at a later stage can combine their studies in D&T with work in related fields such as art and design, or computing, and/or with modules from the Education Studies Field. Others can choose combinations from a wide range including Japanese Studies, Popular Culture, and Drama and Television.

The 2-year BEd. caters specifically for mature students with HND or equivalent qualifications and industrial experience, who wish to become secondary teachers. The course enables students to gain experience and skill in a broad range of areas of D&T, while they develop the necessary professional skills through Teaching Methods courses run by partner schools, followed by extended school placements.

A water safety device designed by Janice MacDonald, a third-year BEd. student, to help mothers taking both a toddler and baby to the pool; it supports the baby safely whilst leaving the mother's arms free, and the design is being taken up by the manufacturer who sponsored the project



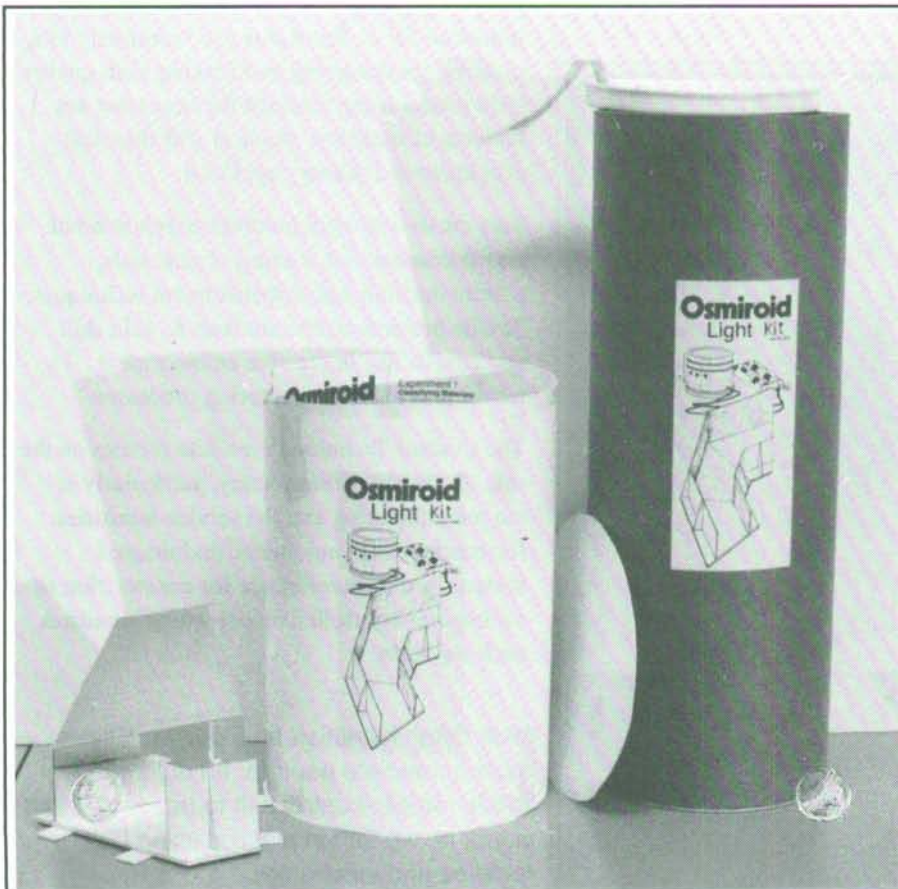


A project in communication and modelling by first-year BA in D&T student Kevin Flett, representing T.E. Lawrence and showing both his assumed persona and his self-destructive personality

The BA in Design & Technology with Certificates in Education or Industrial Studies is a unique course, which gives students the chance to try out working in both education and industry before making a choice of career path. The first two years include placements in secondary schools and in industrial organisations. Students who do not wish for a career in teaching may opt at the end of the second year to follow the Certificate in Industrial Studies by taking an additional project and an extended industrial placement, while those who continue with the Education Certificate have additional Professional Studies courses, and further school placements.

The BA in Primary Education offers a well-established Main Subject Option in Design & Technology. Work in the subject covers aspects necessary to primary teachers such as mechanical and electronic systems and computer control, and also allows individual exploration of areas of personal interest in years 3 and 4. Five modules of this course are devoted to aspects of teaching D&T in primary schools, and include opportunities to try out activities with groups of children in local schools.

Bridget A. Egan



A group project in year 3 of the BA in D&T course, producing a working prototype and its packaging to support teaching primary pupils about light