

Job Description

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Type: Unremunerated

Time Commitment: 5 Board meetings per year, plus Finance & Audit Committee participation and occasional committee engagement

Lead the national voice for design and technology education in England. Shape the future of an essential discipline.

We are seeking an exceptional leader to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Someone who brings vision, strategic clarity, and the confidence to guide our organisation through an exciting period of transformation and growth; including a strategic pivot to a new industry-funded regional model, with [Bristol and the South West](#) launched as our first hub in 2026.

As Chair, you will play a pivotal role in steering the Association's long-term direction, strengthening our influence across government, industry, and the education sector, and ensuring we continue to champion high-quality design and technology education for learners nationwide. Central to this is our new regional initiative (backed by leading industry partners including the James Dyson Foundation and Samsung UK) which delivers fully funded support directly into schools, connecting up to 1,700 schools in the South West alone with real-world design, engineering and problem-solving experiences. Bristol is the first of up to 15 planned regional hubs across England and Wales, and the incoming Chair will help shape and govern this national expansion.

What You'll Lead

- Providing purposeful leadership to the Board, setting a tone of ambition, collaboration and integrity.
- Working closely with our CEO to ensure strong organisational performance, accountability and strategic focus.
- Representing the Association externally, acting as a compelling advocate for design and technology education.
- Ensuring best-practice governance, alignment with statutory requirements, and an effective Board culture.
- Guiding the organisation through future growth, navigating external challenges, and enabling innovation.
- Overseeing the national rollout of our industry-funded regional model; governing the expansion from the Bristol and South West hub toward a network of up to 15 regional hubs and stewarding strategic partnerships with industry funders.

What You'll Bring

- Significant leadership experience (Board or executive-level).
- Strategic insight and the ability to lead an organisation through change.
- High-level influencing and networking skills across education, industry or government.
- A passion for the role of design and technology in shaping the next generation of innovators.
- Experience in finance, business development, organisational leadership, or public affairs.
- Experience building or governing industry-education partnerships, or working within regionally-funded programme models, would be particularly valuable.

Join us to make a lasting impact on learners, educators and the wider D&T ecosystem.

To apply and/or discuss the post, please contact:

Brenda van Beijnum (brenda.vanbeijnum@designtechnology.org.uk).

Closing date: Friday 17 July 2026, 1.00pm

Interview and Appointment Dates:

Informal online meetings: Week commencing 28 July 2026

Formal interviews: Wednesday 6 August to Wednesday 12 August 2026, at the Design & Technology Association offices in Banbury

Appointment confirmed: by Monday 17 August 2026

New Chair starts role: Monday 7 September 2026 (co-opted until the end of 2026 and then starting first three-year term of office from 1 January 2027)