DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027

NOMINATION FORM

Please complete all fields in full. Provide detailed information and supporting evidence that clearly demonstrate how the nominee meets the category criteria.

Submission deadline: 7th June 2027

NOMINEE DETAILS

Name of nominee

Phase of education **Primary** **Secondary** **FE** **HE**

Is this an industry nomination? **Yes** **No**

School/Company name

Job title

Address

Postcode **Work tel. No.**

Work email

Home tel. No.

Home email

REFEREE DETAILS

Educational category nomination, please supply Headteacher details. In the case of an industry nomination please provide appropriate referee.

Name of referee

Address

Tel. No.

☐ Please tick the box to confirm that you have understood that this data will be used in accordance with the Design & Technology Association Privacy Policy.

Please make sure you select the correct category for your nomination. To give your nomination the best chance of success, refer to pages 3–7 for the full list of award categories and the criteria that must be met for your nomination to be considered. Also, please be aware that we receive a large number of nominations. If you would like your nomination to stand out, please supply additional supporting evidence by email to awards@designtechnology.org.uk Please read the PDF "Hints and Tips" sheet to help you with your nomination.

Please email your submission to awards@designtechnology.org.uk or post it to The Design & Technology Association, 11 Manor Park, Banbury, OX16 3TB by 7 June.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2027

Category of Award nomination (please tick) 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5 ○ 6 ○ 7 ○ 8 ○ 9 ○ 10 ○ 11 ○

Please outline why this person is suited for this category of award, listing their unique skills, outstanding achievements and contributions to design and technology. You may continue on a separate sheet, if required. Your nomination will only be judged on the information and supporting evidence provided. Any prior knowledge of the candidate will not be considered. Please provide as much supporting information as possible e.g. photos, articles, student work, testimonials etc. All supporting information must be emailed to **awards@designtechnology.org.uk**

Please note that this supporting information will be collated, edited and used within the awards promotional literature, so please supply as much relevant detail as possible.

Please email your submission to awards@designtechnology.org.uk or post it to The Design & Technology Association, 11 Manor Park, Banbury, OX16 3TB by 7 June.

THE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS NOMINATIONS FOR 2027

Submission deadline: 7th June 2027

Founded in 1999 by the Design & Technology Association Trustees, the Design & Technology Association Excellence Awards recognise individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to design and technology education.

Nominators and nominees don't need to be members, and a list of previous winners can be found on our website. The trustees and executive team review all nominations and select winners based on the information and references provided.

All winners and a guest are invited to the annual awards ceremony in October, with the Association contributing towards travel costs.

THE CATEGORIES

Category 1: Excellence Award for Outstanding Secondary Subject Leadership

This award recognises exceptional and inspiring leadership. The award winner will demonstrate the development of a progressive and innovative secondary department, delivering an outstanding, challenging, and creative curriculum, resulting in impressive pupil achievement and attainment.

This Subject Leader will be identified as going above and beyond normal expectations, inspiring and motivating young people to achieve success and seize the opportunities presented to them.

Evidence should include:

- How a clear vision for the subject has been established within the school which all can aspire to.
- How staff have been empowered to play an active role in the delivery of this vision.
- How support structures have been put in place to help to develop and empower staff.
- Award winners will demonstrate how they have promoted and supported consistently high quality, engaging teaching that inspires their pupils and delivers exceptional design and technology learning.

Evidence could include:

- Inspirational curriculum activities.
- Cross-curricular links.
- Creation of inspirational teaching resources.
- New and innovative methods of teaching.
- Engagement with business/industry to provide context and motivation.
- Noticeable improvement in department results and pupil engagement and results.
- Massive pupil engagement and passion for the subject.

Category 2: Excellence Award for Outstanding Primary Subject Leadership

This award recognises exceptional, effective, and inspiring leadership. The award winner will demonstrate the development of a progressive, outstanding, innovative, and creative primary D&T curriculum delivered across the whole school, resulting in clear learning progression and an impressive improvement in pupil attainment and achievement.

This Subject Leader will be identified as going above and beyond typical subject leadership requirements, inspiring and motivating pupils to achieve success and seize the opportunities presented to them.

Evidence should include:

- How a clear vision for the subject has been established within the school which all can aspire to
- How staff have been empowered to play an active role in the delivery of this vision
- How support structures have been put in place to help to develop and empower staff
- Award winners will demonstrate how they have promoted and supported consistently high quality, engaging teaching that inspires their pupils and delivers exceptional design and technology learning.
- Leadership will be of a high standard that allows colleagues to deliver a challenging D&T curriculum offer confidently.

Evidence could include:

- Inspirational curriculum activities
- Cross-curricular links
- Creation of inspirational teaching resources
- New and innovative methods of teaching
- Evidence of extending the D&T curriculum beyond the classroom walls, providing context and motivation for learning
- Noticeable improvement in the subject
- Massive pupil engagement and passion for the subject.

Category 3: Excellence Award Recognising Outstanding D&T Teacher(s)

This award will be presented to individual teachers who have a passion and deep understanding of the subject and what it can offer pupils of all abilities. A teacher who excels in delivering inspiring D&T and motivates pupils to take the subject to the next level. This may be a teacher in the early years of their career or a highly charismatic teacher who has implemented new teaching methodologies over several years. This teacher champions the subject, makes sure the whole school understands it and understands its positive impact on pupils and their future careers.

Award winners will demonstrate consistently high-quality engaging teaching that inspires their pupils and fellow teachers across all subjects and delivers exceptional design and technology learning throughout their school.

Evidence could include:

- Inspirational curriculum activities and outstanding methods of teaching
- Gaining the respect and engagement of teachers across all subjects
- Creation of inspirational teaching resources
- Creative use of innovative design pedagogy and methodology
- Evidence of practice that makes their pupils simply love D&T lessons.

Category 4: Excellence Award for Inspirational Support Staff within D&T

This award is for support staff who have demonstrated an outstanding contribution to how the subject is delivered in their school. They may be working as teaching assistants, technicians, L.S.A., or volunteers.

They will be known as being highly motivated and enthusiastic about the subject, which in turn will have had a positive effect on both pupils and colleagues. These award winners will be highly valued members of their design and technology department and their work integral to its overall success.

Evidence could include:

- In primary schools, a support colleague may have been responsible for developing the expertise in a particular aspect of the subject. For example, they may have successfully introduced C.A.D. into the school's curriculum, actively seek and implement support from the local community, create inspiring displays and support materials. They would also play a key part in curriculum development and delivery and go above and beyond what is required, becoming highly proficient to be able to instruct and inform both pupils and teachers.
- At secondary level, a support colleague may have been particularly active in developing aspects of the curriculum such as engineering; they may travel the length and breadth of the country sourcing materials or support pupils after-school in a range of co-curricular activities. The winner of this award may have set up and run popular after school clubs or show evidence of effective outreach to business and industry to enhance and enrich the curriculum offer.

Category 5: Excellence Award for Outstanding Contribution to D&T (Awarded by the D&T Association Board of Trustees)

This is a highly prestigious award presented and judged by the Design and Technology Association Board of Trustees. It should be noted that this award does not recognise 'length of service' but instead recognises the positive impact made to the subject. Winners could be at any point in their career, but those nominated will have:

- Made a significant and outstanding contribution to the subject area, which will probably be across several aspects, including teaching, leadership, advising, research, curriculum development, curriculum support, resource development and industrial support.
- Offered their service over a significant period and/or made an outstanding, notable contribution, influencing the development and progression of the subject.

Category 6: Excellence Award for Outstanding Industry Engagement (Teacher)

This award recognises consistent effort and achievement an individual school or teacher makes to engage with industry in a mutually beneficial manner. The nominated school/teacher must be seen to be addressing the skills gap faced by young people entering the workplace by supporting design and technology in schools and colleges. The industry partner should clearly be gaining a better understanding of the school system and curriculum. This mutually beneficial arrangement should significantly enhance young people's learning and understanding of the world of business and industry. Typically, the award-winning school will have developed partnerships where industry representatives collaborate with teachers. E.g., facilitating visits and/or providing groups of young people access to specialist employees, facilities and environments.

Evidence provided by a nominated school could include:

- Positive relationships with a local employer through schemes like Blueprint 1000 that have resulted in reciprocal relationships involving pupils and industry representatives.
- Because of the nature of the partnership, successful design and technology activity has been completed, contextualised by the links to a particular industry.
- Pupils' learning will be significantly enhanced by an ongoing collaboration with teachers and pupils, which helps shape the curriculum in the school/college, increasing the subject's relevance and meaning.
- Through this relationship, pupils have developed a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available to them within business/industry sectors and the pathways that can be taken to progress in the identified area of work.

Category 7: Excellence Award for Outstanding Industry Engagement (Industry Partner)

This award recognises a business's outstanding contribution to design and technology education through its ongoing relationship and activities with an individual school or group of schools. The successful business needs to demonstrate how their engagement with pupils has enriched the curriculum offer in design and technology for the engaged school(s).

Evidence provided by a nominated Industry could include:

- Positive relationships with a school through schemes like Blueprint 1000 that have resulted in reciprocal relationships involving pupils and school representatives.
- Because of the nature of the partnership, successful design and technology activity has been completed in school, contextualised by the links made with a particular industry.
- Pupils' learning will be significantly enhanced by an ongoing collaboration with teachers and pupils, which helps shape the curriculum in the school/college, increasing the subject's relevance and meaning.
- Through this relationship, pupils have developed a more comprehensive understanding of the opportunities available to them within business/industry sectors and the pathways that can be taken to progress in the identified area of work. Through this engagement, the industry leaders have developed a fuller understanding of how to impact the world of education positively.

Category 8: Excellence Award for Outstanding Departmental Team

This award is given to schools across the country, demonstrating a consistently strong and cohesive design and technology departmental team. Leadership and support will be strong, resulting in a clear vision for the subject within the school, resulting in design and technology being attributed high status across a school and amongst the senior team and community. Teachers and leaders will be highly motivated and ambitious for both the subject and their pupils' achievement. In primary schools, the Subject Leader will have ensured that design and technology is fully understood, well-resourced and that all those teaching the subject feel supported and clear in the school's vision. At secondary level, the Heads of Department will be strong middle managers, able to ensure that the subject is understood and valued by the whole school and by parents.

Evidence could include:

- The team have supported each other to develop further skills and understanding, allowing them to deliver a holistic, engaging curriculum.
- There is a shared approach to curriculum development and teaching and learning, with a 360-degree approach to D&T.
- The Subject Leader has used resources such as quality marks and assessment tools to undertake a thorough review of their department and make any subsequent changes. As a result, the secondary department has a clear vision, development plan and strategy for short, medium, and long-term development.
- In Primary school, the staff take shared responsibility for the conception, delivery, and review of their D&T curriculum. Classes may work together to develop collaborative learning opportunities for pupils and strive to develop inspiring D&T learning. At secondary level, uptake amongst pupils at GCSE, A Level and other related qualifications is good, resulting from the subject being valued highly within the community.

Category 9: Outstanding Pupil Award: Age 5-11

This award will be presented to a pupil who can demonstrate that D&T has:

- Made a positive impact on their overall school experience
- Allowed them to demonstrate high levels of motivation, enthusiasm, and achievement within the subject, or
- Will be awarded to a pupil who has excelled within design and technology and can demonstrate exceptional achievement and performance within the subject.

The award has been broken down across ages recognising that pupils may shine within the subject at different stages of their development.

Category 10: Outstanding Pupil Award: Age 12-16

This award will be presented to a pupil who can demonstrate that D&T has:

- Made a positive impact on their overall school experience and
- Allowed them to demonstrate high levels of motivation, enthusiasm, and achievement within the subject, or
- Will be awarded to a pupil who has excelled academically within design and technology and can demonstrate exceptional levels of attainment within the subject.

The award has been broken down across ages recognising that pupils may shine within the subject at different stages of their development.

Category 11: Outstanding Pupil Award: Age 16-18

This award will be presented to a pupil who can demonstrate that D&T has:

- Made a positive impact on their overall school experience and
- Allowed them to demonstrate high levels of motivation, enthusiasm, and achievement within the subject, or
- Will be awarded to a pupil who has excelled academically within design and technology and can demonstrate exceptional levels of attainment within the subject.

The award has been broken down across ages recognising that pupils may shine within the subject at different stages of their development.

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR 2026 WINNERS

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