

Implications of the merging and mothballing of Art and Design and D&T Departments

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Excellence
Everywhere**

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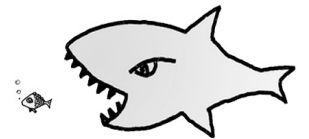
Ebacc, Attainment 8 and Progress 8 along with increased school autonomy is leading some Headteachers to make decisions that seem to promise:

- greater efficiency
- a more flexible curriculum offer
- streamlined leadership & broader responsibility
- improved outcomes
- economy and cost effectiveness

- The situation varies across schools in England
- Little evidence in the North, but is increasing in schools in the South East

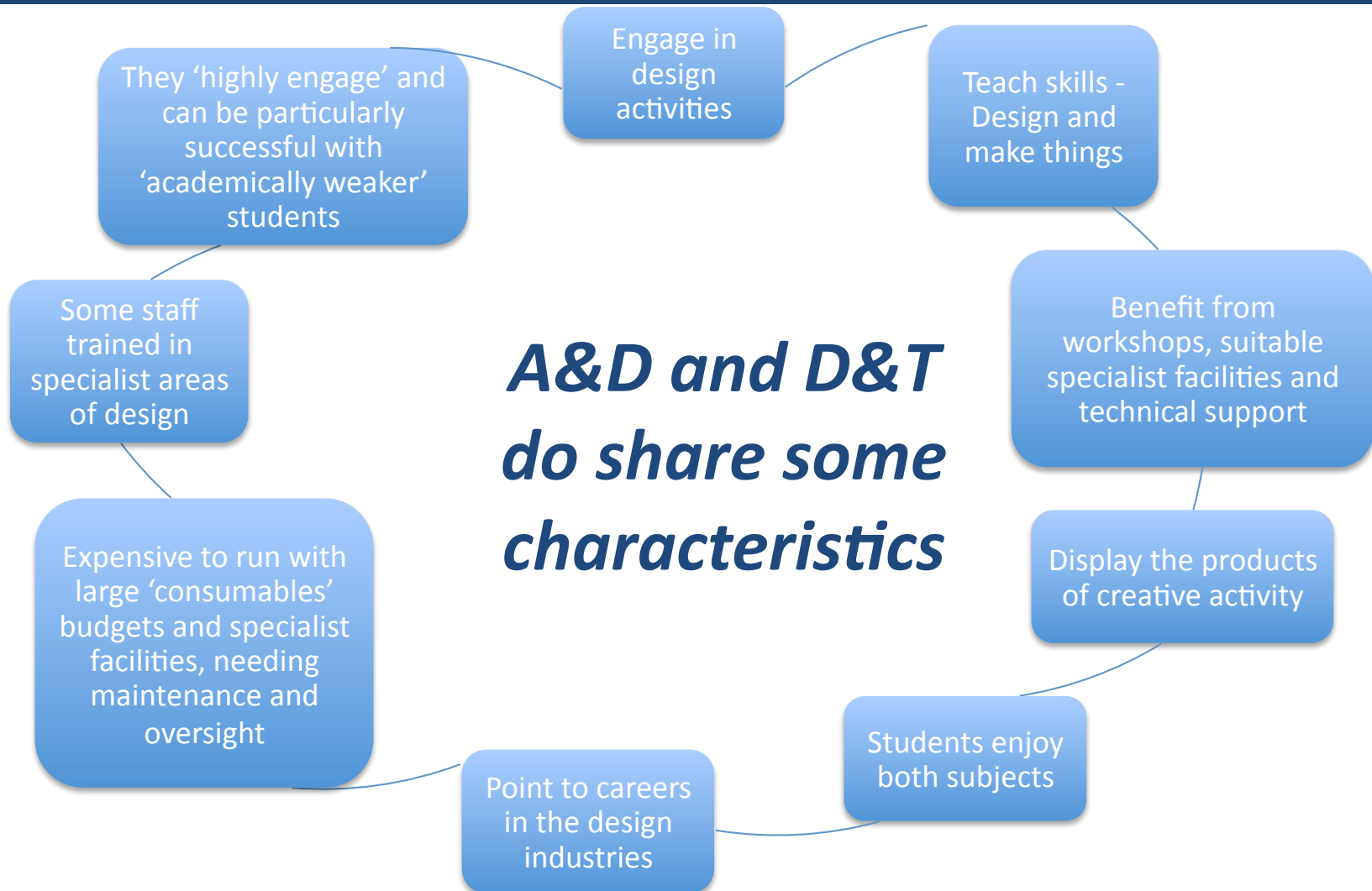
What are the areas possibly affected by the merging & mothballing of Art & Design and D&T Departments?

- **Curriculum** – possible reduction in KS3 curriculum time (amalgamation carousel), potential narrowing of learning opportunities, GCSE offer, skills/subject knowledge
- **Financial** – possible reductions to budget, leading to reduced growth or facilities – probable loss of specialist rooms and technician support
- **Staffing** - amalgamated provision – greater need for CPD
- **Leadership and management** of curriculum may not be able to sustain breadth of provision, facilities, innovation, or sustain profile, standards or ensure H&S



The implications of merging Art & Design and D&T

- This development in many schools is proving positive
- However, in some other schools, these similarities can also be seen as a reason to merge, reduce provision overall and seek cost efficiencies



Comparing Art & Design and D&T

- A gross simplification of purpose

In Art, Craft & Design

Form over function

Primarily concerned with the Aesthetic

*Develop personal vision, expressive ideas
& intentions*

Individual works of art, craft & design

*Enriching life through aesthetic, cultural &
thought provoking works/experiences or
installations*

*Making meaning to engage and
communicate concepts and complex ideas
about the human condition*

*Applying skills and understanding to
communicate ideas and intentions*

In Design & Technology

Function over form

Fit for purpose & well designed

Focus on design solutions to problems

Prototype for manufacture

*Target need to improve the quality of life
through better designed products*

Sustainability and the environment

*Applying new science & technologies to
create designs for manufacture/solutions*

*Applying skills and knowledge that work to
commercial and manufactured standards*



The implications of merging Art & Design and D&T

- CURRICULUM & LEARNING

In Art, Craft & Design

Teachers are free to define content based on broad aims.

- *KS3 - No specified knowledge*
- *No specific required content*
- *KS3-5 No required study of specific genres, artists, designers, makers etc.*

In Design & Technology

- *Substantial clearly defined technical, scientific and contextual knowledge and skills – necessary for progress.*
- *Teachers define activities for learning and applying this.*
- *Written examination of knowledge*

Consequences of merger: Subjects have many complementary features, however:

- The study of one, cannot replace the other.
- The KS3 curriculum could become narrowed – with reduced areas of focus in one or both subjects
- Long term - reduced specialist options at GCSE and A-level
- Subject identity and career pathways confused for some pupils
- Merger can result in less time overall, reducing content further

The implications of merging Art & Design and D&T

- The reasons for merging - **LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT**

Possible consequences of merger:

- **Leadership and management of curriculum** may not be able to sustain existing breadth of provision, facilities and innovation in both subjects.
- **Financial** – This may result in possible reductions to budget, subject growth and facilities – loss of specialist rooms / equipment owing to narrowing staff skill-set.
- **Staffing** - amalgamated provision requiring greater CPD for teachers working in both subjects – but with reduced CPD budget.
- **Health and safety** could be compromised in D&T.
- **Consequently** - Reduced GCSE course offer - loss of profile for one/both subjects - option numbers decline - impact on A-level.
- **Consequently** - standards will most likely decline in longer term.

The implications of merging Art & Design and D&T

– Outcomes for students

Positives outcomes of merger – where both subjects retain their full curriculum provision, facilities and a highly skilled team:

- Learning can be complementary / subject knowledge set in context
- Greater scope for enrichment and career opportunities
- Some improved cost efficiencies and teachers more skilled
- **Standards can be enhanced**

Negative consequence of merger on outcomes might include:

- Reduced curriculum breadth, time and examination option choice
- Subject identity and career pathways confused
- Specialism reduced and specialist skills of team lost / leave
- Lack of effective specialist leadership in both subjects might result in one subject dominating / reduced facilities / less breadth and depth / less knowledgeable or effective teaching.... **Hence, outcomes and standards will probably fall in one or both areas.**