**Letter to MPs to support D&T in the NC review.**

Dear .....

I am writing to you as one of your constituents and a member of the National Association of Advisors in Design and Technology (NAAIDT). This association has worked tirelessly with numerous organisations to promote leadership and excellence in design & technology and engineering education through out the UK. We believe it is incumbent on all of us to ensure that future generations of children and young people can benefit from the very best opportunities that design & technology and engineering education can offer.

We believe that a “slimmed down” National Curriculum that aims to enable young people to become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens should involve and educational experience of design & technology and engineering education. The uniqueness of a design & technological and engineering experience enables young people to develop:

* develop their creative thinking and be innovative;
* bring their ideas to life and test proposals;
* develop useful manual dexterity and useful practical skills;
* take responsibility for their work and actions;
* take ‘risks’ in a safe environment;
* become independent, resourceful and responsible workers;
* have a sense of pride and achievement in what they do;
* learn about the made world and apply this to their ideas;
* apply literacy, numeracy and skills, knowledge and understanding from other areas of the curriculum;
* develop essential employability skills in preparation for the world of work

However, some of the Coalition Government’s proposals to develop the English education system as outlined by Michael Gove in the remit for the review of the National Curriculum. Design & technology and engineering are at odds with the views of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osbourne and the Department for Business in their “innovation in Britain, designed in Britain, made in Britain” statement. Design & technology also contribute to two essential elements of the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) agenda which encourages children to become involved in cross-curricular learning across these subjects. It, therefore, seems contradictory to promote Science and Mathematics as essential subjects in the review of the English National Curriculum and devalue the status and importance of design & technology and engineering education.

Another aspect of the concern is the introduction of the E-Baccalaureate which has been introduced as an additional performance indicator to judge schools. This performance indicator fundamentally promotes modern foreign languages and humanities subjects over and above subjects, such as design & technology and engineering and could devalue these subjects in the eyes of Head Teachers and governing bodies who are striving to ensure they meet the benchmarks of good performance set out by Michael Gove. I, therefore, urge the Coalition Government to actively consider supporting the inclusion of design & technology in to the statutory National Curriculum to avoid a return to a historical curriculum model which could limit breadth and balance and inhibit interest and achievement of some pupils.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this and related issues further at your convenience. Furthermore, I would suggest that you consider visiting some of the Design & Technology departments in your area and am happy to suggest some schools and accompany you to see at first hand the excellent work being done to inspire children in the subject and witness its contribution to the country’s economy.

Yours sincerely

NAAIDT Member