

'A New Respect for the Work We Do'

Martin Patterson
President of DESTECH

These are exciting and interesting times for Technology and Design teachers. We are witnessing, across the nation, the germination and growth of a new understanding of and a new respect for the work we do.

We are finding new and better ways of approaching the business of developing practical capability for pupils. We are establishing a new, central position in the school.

Changes like these do not take place quickly, or uniformly across the nation; nor do they happen without the dedication and hard work of the Design and Technology workforce. DESTECH recognises this commitment and sense of purpose; to a large extent, DESTECH exists to support teachers, wherever they are, in their attempts to establish the central role of Design and Technology within the school curriculum.

DESTECH is a National Association for all involved in Design and Technology in Education. It operates at both the national and the local level, and at each of these levels it offers its

members important advantages. At the national level, DESTECH offers a new voice and national identity for Design and Technology teachers, a means to be heard on important issues now being put forward. It offers contact with, and acceptance by, the national educational establishment. It embodies the values and attitudes of modern professional Design and Technology teachers, and speaks at the national level of their hopes and concerns. It publishes an important theoretical journal and a national newsletter, thus acting as a forum for discussion and development throughout the UK.

Every year, it organises a national conference — this year's was held at Easter for two days, based on the theme 'Management and Staff Development in Design and Technology'. Four excellent 'Keynote' addresses were given and conference members were formed into working groups to respond to the main issues raised. The 1988 conference features the theme 'Design and Technology; Capability and Awareness'.

For details, write to Lynne Evans, 5 Silver Birch Croft, Broughton, Chester, CH4 0FT.

At the local level, DESTECH makes an equally important contribution. Regional organisers co-ordinate local activities that include talks by figures of national importance, and seminars and discussions on the important areas affecting Design and Technology today.

This event today is an excellent example of the possibility that DESTECH can arrange for you. However, not all DESTECH regional organisations are equally active; to be effective, they need your involvement and support. We can only be strong if we are united, and DESTECH offers us the means for moving forward together. Our aim is to build a national organisation, the strength of which comes from active involvement in the region; an organisation which represents the entire CDT workforce.

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