

Editorial

As the revision of Design and Technology moves on through its complex professional and political processes the role of DATA becomes even more central and significant. At local, regional and national levels — in organisations, conferences, consultations and in the media. DATA members and officers are playing a key role in influencing both broad policy and fine tuning. But the process is a continuing one — it will not be complete even when the new Orders are in place and the non-statutory guidance written. Technology is a dynamic, changing area of education and so too must be the continuing role of DATA.

The ongoing process is well illustrated in this issue of *Design & Technology Teaching*. The debate between John Hardwick and Richard Kimbell which begins the issue will be of fascinating interest to many readers. It shows how two leading figures with very similar perspectives on technology education can have fundamental differences in their views about its interpretation and its outcome. But beyond this it shows clearly how unpredictable will be the experiences of technology for our students despite the strong likelihood of more precise and even prescriptive orders. At the end the outcomes are still dependent on the perspectives and enthusiasms of individual school teachers and the students themselves. John Patten — take note!

The following articles in this issue of *Design & Technology Teaching* confirms the range of prospects. They present a broader spectrum of initiatives taking place in textiles and environmental issues, education and industry partnerships, national contests and the continuing role of home economics. All of the articles indicate the varied and continuing development of our subject in partnership with colleagues, industry and community.

These prospects are strongly underlined in the two perspectives offered by Howard Denton and Tony Hodgson.

Two further features complement this issue; one is an enlarged and highly informative resource section on new products and processes, the other is a special information section on Key Stage 4 developments. And, of course, there are the usual reviews and news sections too. Readers can hardly fail to be better informed after reading this issue of *Design & Technology Teaching!*



The Design and Technology Association

Are you interested in Design and Technology 5 to 19 years? In: Resources, Assessment, Access for Special Needs Pupils, Initial Teacher Training, Values and Health and Safety?

**Join us at the DATA Annual Conference
North Cheshire College,
Padgate Campus, Cheshire 3rd
and 4th July 1993**

An informative, stimulating and enjoyable weekend is planned for all those involved in Design and Technology and will provide:

- A resource exhibition of over 30 stands, many offering discounts and practical workshops.
- Key note speakers representing national organisations such as OFSTED and NCC.
- Reports on national surveys and projects, concerning resourcing, staffing and training.
- Parallel conferences with discussions and workshops on primary, special needs, ITT, assessment, values.
- An opportunity for members to democratically elect their representatives at the first DATA AGM.
- A Conference Dinner and an evening of entertainment with the 'New Orleans Express' Jazz Band.
- Special accommodation rates for partners and families and information on local attractions.

Contact DATA for further information, closing date 1st June 1993, places are limited.

The Design and Technology Association

16 Wellesbourne House, Walton Road, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire CV35 9JB. Tel: 0789 470007 Fax: 0789 841955.

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