Linking Thinking: Textiles
'Linking thinking' describes ways to develop links with other subjects in the curriculum.

1. Understanding the user
Your students can link identifying a person's needs and wants for a particular product to the user trip evaluation strategy. This involves using such a product to find out which features work well and which could be improved.

This can be extended to observing people using a product and deducing which features work well and which could be improved.

2. Briefs and specifications
Your students can link writing a specification to using the specification for testing the performance of the finished product. The specification can be turned into a set of questions that they can use to find out the extent to which their design decisions have been successful.

3. Generating design ideas
Encourage your students to use the PIES approach to identifying the needs meet by a product to decide whether a design idea is worth taking further.

4. Developing design ideas
As your students develop ideas it is important that they do not lose sight of the specification to which they are working. Regular 'visits' to the specification will ensure that their time spent in developing ideas is not wasted pursuing ideas that will, in the end, have to be rejected.

5. Communicating design ideas
Remind your students that they should bethinking about the different people they might need to communicate their ideas to as they are developing their ideas. This will encourage them to develop clear instructions to support making and useful information for potential users.

6. Evaluating design ideas
Resource Tasks PART1 and PART2 provide opportunities to investigate products that have been produced commercially. You can encourage your students to carry out these activities in the light of the evaluation techniques they use in Capability Tasks.