



## **SVS - Visor Production**

It all started simply from a request from a local GP enquiring as to whether we could put our 3D printer to good effect, and produce visors within our Design and Technology department.

On realising that GPs were not issued with visors as part of their PPE and that COVID-19 can be transferred via the eyes, nose and mouth, we were keen to provide the necessary visors to this surgery.

I was aware of several designs which could be produced using a 3D printer, but realistically around 3 hours to produce each product seemed less than desirable when time is clearly of the essence to get such products to these front line staff.

It was at this moment whilst exploring design concepts and avenues as to how to produce a face-shield that another email arrived in my inbox; this time introducing me to the fact that a medical centre is being set-up in Tonbridge specifically to deal with the coronavirus. These local GP's were also reaching out for help.

Now, more than ever, it was clear that we needed to be able to produce visors within our school workshop, to a fine quality in as little time as possible. I had heard that the government were working on getting the high volumes of PPE out to hospitals and surgeries, but something on this scale was going to take time. If we could satisfy the immediate need for these visors in the first instance, the cavalry, so to speak, could sweep in after.

The very next morning, my daughter and I started production of our very own visor design. Taking 20 minutes per visor to produce, we worked all day to produce a dozen visors for both the Amherst Medical Practice and the pop-up medical centre in Tonbridge.

Behind the scenes, our very own marketing officer had written a social media post detailing what had been going on, within these past 24 hours.

It was only after delivering the visors that same afternoon that I took a moment to return to my computer. There was an overwhelming response to our social media post, with people as far as Berkshire wanting to follow in our footsteps and produce these visors for their communities. It was at this point that these initial designs were shared. It was great to see designers and manufacturers working together for the better good.

After a day of product refinement, a new design had been developed which could be produced in under six minutes, but this was going to require a team of helpers if we were to now produce the quantities required to supply the further six GP practices which had responded to our social media post.

A steady influx of requests for visors, as well as offers of help, arrived via Facebook, email and through our well-connected community, this was going to take some centralising and coordination; Mr Farrell stepped up to the plate.

As the positive side of social media kicked in, we were now at a stage where we were distributing these visors to GP surgeries within Kent, but also Maidstone hospital. The design meanwhile was being shared with schools as far as Dorset, in hope that other schools were able to get on board with productions for their communities.

The University of Kent, BAE Systems and the army based in Maidstone were all interested in this design production, to which the CAD drawings and production methods were shared.

Our team at SVS are working tirelessly to produce more than 100 visors each day that we are in production and will continue to do all we can and for as long as necessary.

It is a real pleasure to be able to help the wider community, who in turn are doing all they can to help others.

**Mr Simon Kirk**

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