## Printing (Cont.)

**Heat transfer printing**...

- uses a design **printed** onto **sublimation** paper
- transfers the design to fabric using **heated rollers**
- is only suitable for fabrics that have 50% or more synthetic content.

**Computer transfer printing**...

- uses an **image created** on a **computer** then printed onto transfer paper
- transfers the design by applying heat from an iron or heat press to the back of the paper.

**Digital Printing**...

- means that the **whole design and printing process** is carried out **by computer**
- can create complex designs quickly and easily
- is used in industry for sampling and to make **bespoke** (one-off) fabrics / garments.

**A Digital Printer**

## Dyeing

**Dyeing** is another common method of applying colour to fabrics. Fabric is immersed in a dye bath. The resulting **colours** depend on...

- the type of **fibre** (colours are stronger on natural fibres)
- the type of **dye**, i.e. synthetic or natural
- the type of **product** being dyed
- what **stage** of the production process colour is applied.

The following methods of dying can be used in the **classroom** or **industry**:

**Pigment dyeing**...

- uses a **binding agent** and **pigment** that are mixed and applied to the fabric
- is used in screen printing.

**Natural / vegetable dyeing**...

- uses colourings extracted from **natural products** like onion skins, beetroot and cochineal (beetle)
- uses a **mordant** (metallic oxide or salt **fixative**), which is needed to make the dye 'stick' to the fibres.

## Industrial Practices

The following dying methods are **not suitable** for the classroom:

**Direct dyeing**...

- is a process that can only be done once and in a single colour
- does not involve a fixing process
- should not to be confused with using dyes, such as Dylon®.

**Disperse dyeing**...

- involves the fibre being placed in hot liquid and applying the dye under pressure
- is used for nylons, polyester and acrylics.