



7 June 2019

Dear Parents

GCSE Design Technology 2019/2020

Pupils who are studying GCSE Design Technology start their coursework (now known as Non-Examined Assessment, or NEA) in June of Year 10. This is when the annual design challenges are released by exam boards. These challenges are released on 1 June and pupils have been given a copy of the choices. There are a number of sections to the whole piece of work, and it is imperative that pupils meet the interim deadlines as their NEA progresses.

Key completion dates for each section are as follows (w/c Monday 3 June):

- **24 June. Section A.** Investigating design possibilities. Working with a real person as a client to establish what is actually required from the prototypes that pupils will design.
- **8 July. Section B.** Creating a design brief and a design specification. Referring to Section A, what do pupils intend to make, and what are the initial ground rules for their prototypes?
- (Summer holidays)
- **23 September. Section C.** Initial sketch ideas for their prototypes. A wide range of sketched design possibilities. Colour, 3D and briefly annotated.
- **11 November. Section D.** Development of ideas in to a working design solution. Detailed sketches, drawings and models, all with detailed annotation to explain design thinking.
- (18 November is the provisional date for mock GCSE exams)
- **10 February. Section E.** Practical work. A functioning prototype completed.
- **2 March. Section F.** Evaluation of the product and process. All work reviewed and improved. Completed design folder handed in for marking.

It is expected that pupils will revisit sections during the course of their work, and they are able to make improvements throughout the process.

The expectation is that this is to be a largely independent piece of work, and is governed by a series of regulations which dictate the amount, and level, of feedback pupils can receive. The most relevant points are as follows.

Model answers, writing frames, page titles etc are not permitted. General guidance that covers the required content for each section is permitted, and it is up to the pupil to approach the content in the way they see fit.

The marks scheme will be shared with pupils so they are aware of elements to include in their work.

Some written work can be done at home, but once it is brought in to school it must stay in school, and it must be of the same standard as the written work done in school. All practical work is to be done in school.

Pupils cannot be given specific, individual feedback as to how they might improve their work, or be given specific, individual feedback regarding mistakes or omissions. Pupils must work things out for themselves. Teachers are permitted to offer whole-class, general feedback only. Questions such as 'How can my child improve their work?' are classed as specific individual feedback and are not allowed to be directly answered. Reference can be made to general whole-class feedback and it is up to the individual concerned to apply this to their own work. If any individual feedback or direct assistance becomes absolutely necessary for a pupil to be able to continue with a part of the assessment, the assistance given must be recorded and the value of the work deducted from the pupils final result.

Once final work is submitted, it cannot be marked and given back to pupils for further improvement.

Pupils have a right to ask for their final piece of work to be remarked. Pupils will be given their mark two weeks before the closing date for submission to allow for this process. (There may be a charge for the remark.)

Provided pupils meet the above deadlines they should make strong progress towards their target GCSE grade, but if they start to fall behind I will make further contact to ask for your support to help them catch up with any missing or late work. However, the meeting of deadlines is the preferred option as delayed work has a cumulative impact on all of their studies, not just Design Technology.

If you have any other questions about the NEA or any other element of the GCSE course, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Wilkinson', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Wilkinson
Head of Design Technology