

30 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: GCSE Design and Technology (AQA)**

We are really pleased that your son/daughter has opted to study GCSE Design and Technology and would like to tell you a little about the course and our expectations – it's still a relatively new course and very different to the previous syllabus which siblings or friends may have had experience of!

This year, especially, it is necessary for students to have their own resources/ copy of the course content. Between September 2025 and June 2026 students will focus on developing their understanding of the Core Principles (including topics such as energy generation, mechanisms and smart/ composite materials). Throughout this time, they will complete a selection of focused practical tasks using different materials and processes to help build on their existing practical skills.

In June 2026 students will start their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment), which is worth 50% of the final GCSE grade. This is a larger piece of work that consists of a written/printed folio (80%) and a practical element (20%) – we are very restricted in the level of feedback we are legally allowed to give students throughout the NEA, so it is crucial they work well and keep good notes in the early part of the year.

We have taken care to research the new resources available to ensure we provide the best, and most appropriate, course for your son/ daughter. I am pleased that we can offer the D&T packs available for purchase (£13) from the start of the Autumn term, so your son/ daughter is equipped to complete the full course. The pack consists of an A3 carry folder, an A3 NEA flip-folio, an A4 exercise book and a Collins AQA GCSE D&T All-in-One Revision & Practice book.

Over the last few years, the cost of materials for Design and Technology has increased hugely and we request a voluntary contribution towards the materials to enable students to complete their practical work. For Year 10 the sum of this is £7, which enables us to run the following practicals: a mirror/picture frame and handheld maze game.

Payments can be made online via Arbor and packs collected from the Student Reception. We don't expect contributions from students receiving Free School Meals.

Yours sincerely



**Mr J Batchelor**  
**Head of D&T Department**

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