

30 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: GCSE Design and Technology (AQA)

We're really pleased that your son/daughter has continued to study GCSE Design and Technology and would like to tell you a little about the remainder of the course and our expectations.

Students should have now begun their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) – which accounts for 50% of their final GCSE grade. Following the completion of the NEA students will revise and prepare for their Year 11 PPE exam – please note this is later than the other school PPE exams due to our tight deadlines for the NEA. The final GCSE exam is currently indicated as **18 June**.

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 NEA practical modelling and work. For Year 11 the sum of this is **£15** which would enable us to buy timber, polymers, metals, etc. needed throughout the year; if a student chooses to use specialist materials, fixings and finishes these may have needed to be bought separately.

Payments can be made online via Arbor. We don't expect contributions from students receiving Free School Meals.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Batchelor
Head of D&T Department
The Castle School
