

Dear Parent/Carer

September 2023

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

We're 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 2023 and June 2024 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 2023 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 (£12) and collection from the start of the September 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 are now requesting a *contribution towards* (not the full cost of) the materials to be bought-in to enable students to complete their practical work. For Year 10 the sum of this is £4.50, which enables us to run the following practicals: a mirror/picture frame and G-clamp. It is worth mentioning that students have always contributed towards project materials but this used to be in dribs and drabs throughout the year and we hope this makes it clearer and easier for everyone!

Please complete and return the slip below to your son/daughter's D&T class teacher by Friday 29 September so we can hand out the resources and students are ready to start their projects. Please pay either via the school's online payment system the by cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School) or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone with the Finance Department).

Yours sincerely



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

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**FAO: Mr Batchelor/ Mrs Fishlock, Design and Technology Department (Year 10 D&T packs)**

Student's Name: .....

Please provide my son/daughter with a Design and Technology pack and practical materials, I have paid **£16.50** (£12 for pack + £4.50 materials contribution) by:

- Scopay - the school's online payment system
- Cash (to the Finance Office)
- Cheque (made payable to The Castle School and taken to the Finance Office)