

Dear Parent/Carer

09 November 2020

Re: GCSE Design and Technology (AQA) – Year 10

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 very new course and very different to the previous syllabus which siblings or friends may have had experience of!

Between September 2020 and June 2021 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 2021 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 November 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 dramatically 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: picture frame, pen/pencil stand and G-Cramp. It is worth mentioning that students have always contributed towards project materials but this used to be at various intervals 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 20 November so we can hand out the resources and students are ready to start their mini project. Please pay either via the school's online payment system, by cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School) or by credit/debit card (over the phone with the Finance Department).

Yours sincerely

Mr J Batchelor
Head of D&T Department

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

Student's Name: Form:

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:

- The school's online payment system
- Cash
- Cheque (made payable to The Castle School)
- Credit/Debit card (over the phone)

Signed (Parent/Carer): Date: