

Dear Parent/Carer

09 November 2020

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

We are 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 – it's still a relatively new course and very different to the previous syllabus which siblings or friends may have had experience of!

Between September 2020 and February 2021 students will continue working on their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) – which accounts for 50% of their final GCSE grade.

They will start making when they *as an individual* are ready to, which will be when all required design, development, research, modelling and analysis work is complete. Those students that are further ahead with their NEA may find that this is around the end of November. Regardless of when they start, all students will have their last practical lesson during the week commencing Monday 25 January 2021. This then leaves students just two weeks to complete the final testing and evaluation section of their NEA before February half term.

After half term the NEAs will be fully assessed against the AQA mark scheme (all students have copies of this already) and final feedback given to students.

During March 2021 students will revise and prepare for their GCSE Mock exam – please note this is later than the other school mock exams due to our tight deadlines for the NEA.

Over the last few years the cost of materials for Design and Technology has increased hugely and we request a *contribution towards* (not the full cost of) the materials to be bought-in to enable students to complete their NEA practical modelling and work. **For Year 10 first GCSE the sum of this is £12.00**, which enables us to buy in the timber, polymers, metals, etc, needed throughout the year; if a student chooses to use specialist materials, fixings and finishes these may need to be bought separately and brought into school at a later date.

It is worth mentioning that students have always contributed towards project materials but this used to be at various intervals during the year so we hope this makes it clearer and easier for everyone!

Please complete and return the slip on the attached sheet to your son/daughter's D&T class teacher by Friday 20 November so we can arrange this year's materials. 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 First GCSE D&T materials)

Student's Name: Form:

Please provide my son/ daughter with a Design and Technology materials, I have paid **£12.00** 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: