

Dear Parent/Carer

September 2023

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.

Between September 2023 and February 2024 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 October and we have previously had some stragglers not ready to start until January! Regardless of when they start, all students will have their last practical lesson during the week commencing Monday 29 January 2024. 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.

In the four weeks following February half term students will revise and prepare for their Year 11 Mock exam – please note this is later than the other school mock exams due to our tight deadlines for the NEA. The final GCSE exam is currently indicated as **Monday 17 June (AM)**.

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 11 the sum of this is £15.00**; 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 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 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 (either in person or over the phone with the Finance Department).

Yours sincerely



Mr J Batchelor
Head of D&T Department

FAO: Mr Batchelor/Mrs Hobson, Design and Technology Department (Year 11 D&T NEA Materials)

Student's Name:

Please provide my son/daughter with prototyping and final product materials, I have paid **£15** by:

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