



4 June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Re: Non-Examined Assessment, 100 marks (50% of final GCSE grade)

I am writing to inform you of this year's Design Technology NEA contexts that were released on 1st June:

- **Changing climate:** As weather patterns change, it is essential for users to access products suited to emerging environmental conditions. Design and make an innovative solution that responds to the challenges of climate change and addresses a specific user's needs.
- **Designing for future generations:** Designing for future generations means considering their expectations for ethical, multifunctional, and inspiring products. Begin by pinpointing a particular need, then design and produce a creative product that addresses the identified expectations.
- **Inspiration from nature:** The patterns, shapes, and functionalities found in the natural world can often serve as inspiration for both designers and engineers. Identify a specific problem and use inspiration from nature to produce an innovative solution.

Work is carried out on Google Classroom; the first section has been uploaded along with other useful documents. Students in their first lesson will be introduced to the JCQ rules set by the exam board, although this work is not completed in exam conditions in a hall with an invigilator, it is classed as an exam and students must not share their work with each other or post on social media, in addition they must ensure they reference any source used to help them with their work such as the internet or AI, failing to do so means the student has plagiarised which may result in the student being removed from the course. More information on this can be found here [32619E4869889F53B7B62CBFD7BC78C9.pdf](#) and [JCQ-AI-poster-for-students-2.pdf](#)

As the work is an exam, feedback cannot be given to students, it is therefore important that students use all the advice and guidance given to them via Google Classroom as once submitted this is the work that will be marked.

It is vitally important that students select a 'user', preferably an adult, who they can talk to on a weekly basis, who can give them constructive feedback throughout the NEA. Essentially the student is the designer who is guided by their user's needs and wants for a product which solves a problem based on **ONE** of the contexts.

Students will now start to complete Section A worth 10 marks by investigating each of the contexts, finding problems, taking photos, deciding on a user, and completing a summary page having explored design briefs. Students will also make a start on Section B by writing a draft brief and specification in addition to section C inspiration research and finally product analysis. 2/3 lessons will be given to each page, Students need to ensure they submit their work once completed and we aim for estimated marks to be on Go4Schools by the end of July for section A. Please see attached the contents check list.



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Staying focused and completing work in the required time is paramount, as we use Google Classroom for the NEA pages students are able to amend/update from any internet connected device to complete homework and stay on track. As phones cannot be used in school, any photos students take must be emailed to their email address that they can access in school as part of homework. We will also be holding Thursday after school catch up sessions for any student who has additional time or is falling behind.

We anticipate section B design brief & specification, worth 10 marks will be completed in the first week in September. Section C worth 30 marks is the design and testing stage following the iterative cycle process, this should be complete by the end of December. January until February half term, students should be making their final product worth a further 30 marks. The making will only start when their NEA portfolio is completed to an appropriate point and standard and the technician has received a cutting list of parts. Finally, we aim for section E worth 20 marks, Testing, Evaluating and modifying to be completed by March 2027. Clearer dates will be communicated in due course for each section. A video was recorded last year going over the NEA process which can be found here [FINAL Dt Yr10 Virtual Parents Information Evening](#)

The Design Technology department will supply standard materials such as MDF, ply and acrylic as well as some basic fixings and finishes including paint, students are also able to use the laser cutter and 3d printers. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £20 to help cover the cost, this cost can be made via parent pay. Finished products can be collected in October 2027, should products not be collected then they will be recycled.

Mock exams for core subjects and options take place in November and March, we therefore advise that students continue to revise, all of Year 10 content is on Google classroom, Students are also signposted to using Bitesize and Eduqas blended learning revision materials. We aim to build in a revision lesson near to the mock in November however this is NEA dependant. Revision guides are still available from finance if this has not previously been purchased.

May I thank you again for your continued support, should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards  
Mrs Mosley  
Head of Design Technology