



15th September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

Firstly, I would like to introduce our new Head of Design and Technology Owain Jones, he comes to join us with a wealth of subject knowledge and experience of teaching across all three key stages. We are both delighted that your child has selected one of our courses and look forward to working with them and yourselves over the next two years.

I am also writing to inform you that due to a new specification for the existing Cambridge National Engineering Design Level 2, which does not, we feel, benefit any of our students we have changed to a different examination board. Students will now be studying GCSE Design and Technology, following the AQA exam board specification, which is graded 9-1, in line with other GCSE options. (A copy of the course overview is attached). This decision has been made to allow students to continue to enjoy a broad and balanced offer to the curriculum delivered in Design and Technology whilst being able to successfully achieve their full potential without being disadvantaged by any means.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to highlight some of the resources, key dates, and requirements of the course and how you can best support your child to achieve the best results in their exam, be it practical or theory. Students will be using Google Classroom to share lessons and resources. A revision book for the course, highlighted on Google Classroom and Class charts, can be purchased via ParentPay at cost price, supplemented by further online resources such as SENECA. Homework will be set on Class charts and highlighted on Google Classroom, this may be in the form of SENECA online learning or specified design tasks related to course content.

There are a number of useful ways that you can support your child on this course; one, would be to get them to review the theory work they complete in their lessons, completing all homework set on time; two, discuss how their practical projects are progressing in the workshop; and three, to watch some of the many design programmes on TV/YouTube – for example Grand Designs (CH4), How's it made, Inside the factory, The repair shop – anything on manufacturing and the design process.

The GCSE Design and Technology is 50% Non-Exam Assessment and 50% final written exam both are completed in year 11. During year 10 we will be building up to these requirements and nearer the time will let you know more about them.

You will appreciate that there is a cost associated with the College providing the materials for KS4 projects; I would be grateful if you would be willing to provide **£5** towards these costs. Payment is to be made using the online Parentpay shop-

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Uniform/Default.aspx?shopid=1120>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with Mr Jones if you require support or have any concerns/questions. I do hope that your child enjoys their course and that you enjoy the design and technology that they produce both at College and at home.

Yours faithfully

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