



15 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: A-level Product Design and A-level Fashion and Textiles**

I am writing regarding the A-level Product Design or A-level Fashion and Textiles Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) that your son or daughter will be completing this academic year. Firstly, I would like to thank the students for working diligently during the Covid restrictions. Due to the OFQUAL updates I can now give details on how your son or daughter's coursework will be marked.

Of the 50% NEA, Sections D and E have both had their marks reduced to compensate students for the earlier Covid restrictions and the overall mark will now be 85 marks instead of the usual 100. It has however, been stressed that where possible it is beneficial for students to still be able to engage in practical making skills (see this link for more information) <https://www.aqa.org.uk/news/a-level-design-and-technology-nea-changes-for-2022-exams>

**Section D – Development of Design Prototypes**

This section has been reduced from 25 to 15 marks. In this section students will no longer be assessed on the skill of making their prototype but will be required to show their intentions and demonstrate an understanding of the processes involved in making.

At St Martin's we recognise the importance of students being able to complete practical work and gaining the associated skills and will be encouraging them to continue developing their work through practical making and evidencing this in their folders. These skills will also benefit students wishing to progress onto future study in Design Technology related subjects.

**Section E – Analysing and Evaluating**

This section has been reduced from 20 marks to 15 marks. As students will not be assessed on a made final prototype from section D, they are no longer expected to physically test their final prototype however, they will still be expected to test the concept of their product on their client. Students will continue to analyse and evaluate their work throughout the entire project in relation to prototype ideas and modelling.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated by the whole Design and Technology team.

If you wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B Lewis  
**Head of Art and Technology Faculty**

*Be The Best You Can Be*