



3 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Update on GCSE Design and Technology Non-Examined Assessment

We hope you are keeping safe and well.

Your son or daughter is currently studying GCSE Design and Technology following the AQA examination board's syllabus. Final grades are determined by two assessments each worth 50%, an externally assessed examination of theoretical topics sat in June of year 11, and a non-examined assessment (NEA) design and make project.

On 1 June AQA released design contexts for the NEA project that the students then follow. AQA are advising that this will still go ahead as normal. We will therefore continue to deliver the NEA project to students, working remotely, and request your support in helping us to ensure that your child makes the most of this valuable part of their GCSE.

By utilising students' OneDrive accounts we are able to complete the written element of the NEA remotely. Students will be sent an individual link from 'Technology' to their school email linking them to a PowerPoint that they then complete. This can only be accessed by themselves and their DT teacher who can see when students have accessed the PowerPoint, can track changes and have a dialogue with students about the work they have produced.

The NEA requires students to respond to **one** of AQA's set design contexts by designing and making a prototype product. They will be assessed on their twenty page PowerPoint which evidences their design journey and a 3D prototype made in school. Students will need to agree their idea for the NEA with their DT teachers so that they can make sure it provides full access to the mark scheme. The NEA is due for completion by 5 March 2021 and students will be set interim deadlines to keep them on track. Students have already been completing work in class that has helped them develop the skills needed to complete the NEA.

As the NEA is a continually assessed piece of work it has proved to be a particularly valuable piece of evidence for our current year 11 students, who have seen their external exams cancelled this year and replaced by grades predicted by their teachers.

We fully appreciate that we are working in unprecedented times and that this situation may be a cause for concern and anxiety to you and your children. We would like to assure you that we are confident that we can currently deliver the PowerPoint part of the NEA remotely. Our adapted resources will be sent out to the students after the 1 June via email giving further specific details. If IT and internet access is difficult for your child please contact their class teacher so that we can suggest alternative ways of working.

Students will continue to work directly with their class teacher in the first instance for the NEA but please do not hesitate to contact either of us via blewis@st-martins.essex.sch.uk or lfowkes@st-martins.essex.sch.uk if we can offer any further advice and guidance.

Thank you for your continued support of the school and all the hard work with home schooling in this challenging time.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Briana Lewis
Head of Design & Technology

Mrs Louise Fowkes
Deputy Head of Design & Technology