



03 June 2025

Dear Families

I am writing to you today to follow up on our previous communication regarding your child's Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) and to stress its critical importance as they officially commenced work on Monday 02 June 2025.

This NEA is not just another piece of coursework; it accounts for a significant 50% of their final GCSE grade in summer 2026. Every single lesson from this point forward is crucial. The time spent in class, the guidance from their teachers, and the resources available to them are all designed to help them succeed in this substantial component of their qualification. Missing lessons or not fully engaging in the work during this period will have a direct impact on their final outcome.

We are now focusing on the first section of their NEA: Identifying and Investigating Design Possibilities. This initial phase is worth 10 out of 100 marks towards their final GCSE grade. It lays the foundational groundwork for their entire project, and a strong start here is vital for their overall success.

We understand that this is a significant undertaking, but we have full confidence in your child's abilities. Their teachers are here to provide comprehensive support, guidance, and feedback every step of the way. Please encourage your child to ask questions, seek clarification, or discuss any challenges they encounter with their teachers.

The deadline for completing the Identifying and Investigating Design Possibilities section is Thursday 03 July 2025. Meeting this deadline is essential, as it allows us to mark their work and provide them with valuable feedback before the summer holidays. This feedback will be instrumental in helping them refine their approach and prepare for the subsequent stages of the NEA.

It is also important to address the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. While AI can be a valuable resource for research and generating ideas, it is paramount that all work submitted for the NEA is your child's own original thought and creation. Students must adhere strictly to the expectations and guidelines provided by their class teacher regarding the appropriate and ethical use of AI. Any misuse or over-reliance on AI that leads to plagiarism will be dealt with according to school policy and could severely impact their NEA grade.

We encourage you to discuss their progress with them and support them in approaching this challenge with dedication and enthusiasm. By working consistently and making the most of every lesson, they will build a strong foundation for their NEA and achieve the grades they deserve.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Georgina Maltby  
**Curriculum Team Leader of Design and Technology**