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14th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Food Preparation & Nutrition Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) Information for the Academic Year

I am writing to provide you with an overview of the Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), often referred to as coursework, that your child will be completing over the coming academic year in Food Preparation and Nutrition. There are two separate NEA's students complete and both NEA's together forms 50% of your child's overall GCSE grade in Food (NEA 1 is 30marks, NEA 2 is 70marks).

This is an important part of the overall qualification and allows students to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding, and practical skills through an extended project completed over several months during class time.

Throughout the year, students will be expected to work independently while meeting a series of key milestones and deadlines. Regular attendance, engagement in lessons, and completion of work at home to help plan and prepare will be essential to ensure successful completion of the NEA.

What Will Contribute to the NEA?

Students will be assessed on a range of skills and evidence.

NEA 1: Food Investigation. This is part of their food science topic and involves investigating the purpose and functions of ingredients in a given product. This year it is based around setting a chilled dessert, using Panna Cotta as an example.

NEA 2: Food Preparation Assessment. Students' knowledge and culinary skills are assessed according to a set brief. A 3hour practical exam of three dishes is included.

All work submitted must be the student's own and completed in line with examination board regulations.

Key Dates and Deadlines

- NEA 1 Due: W/C 19th October.
- NEA 2 Due: W/C 22nd March.
- NEA 1 Practical Day: Thursday 24th September, or, Thursday 1st October.
- NEA 2 Practical 3hour Exam, one of the following: Monday 1st, Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd or Thursday 4th February.

Interim Dates and Deadlines

- NEA 1 Section A Due: W/C 14th September.
- NEA 1 Section B Due: W/C 5th October.
- NEA 2: Section A Due: W/C 30th November.
- NEA 2: Section B Due: W/C 11th January.
- NEA 2: Section C Due: W/C 25th January.

Students who miss interim deadlines may find it difficult to complete the NEA to the highest standard. We strongly encourage students to manage their time carefully and seek support from their teacher if they encounter any difficulties.

How Parents/Carers Can Help

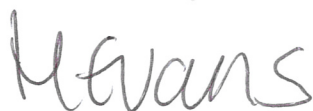
You can support your child by:

- Encouraging them to meet all deadlines.
- Helping them establish a regular schedule for coursework completion.
- Discussing their progress and project plans.
- Ensuring they attend lessons and intervention sessions where applicable.
- Providing a suitable environment for independent study.

Students will receive regular guidance and feedback throughout the process. If you have any questions regarding the NEA or would like further information about the assessment requirements, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely



Miss H Evans
Food Preparation & Nutrition Teacher