

18 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Design and Technology NEA

Your child is currently working on their NEA for Design and Technology. The chosen context is **Exploring Outdoors**, and initial explorative and investigative work began in the summer term.

The assessment is worth 50% of their overall grade, and as students are in complete control over the marks that they can achieve it is vital they maintain a consistent effort throughout. Some of their work will need to be carried out away from the classroom as they are expected to find an appropriate and independent client who will be constantly involved in how the project progresses to meet a real situation.

On the reverse of this letter is the outline of work that students will be working on for their Design and Technology GCSE NEA. It is a very tight schedule, and it is vital that they complete the appropriate work in each session. If this is not the case for whatever reason, they will need to attend after-school sessions in order to keep up.

If you have a questions or concerns, please email me directly:
C.Harrison@lces.dhmat.org.uk

Yours sincerely



Mr C. Harrison
Head of Creative Studies Faculty

The exams and non-exam assessment will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- AO1: Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address needs and wants.
- AO2: Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose.
- AO3: Analyse and evaluate:
 - design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others
 - wider issues in design and technology.
- AO4: Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of:
 - technical principles
 - designing and making principles.

4.2.1 Assessment objective weightings for GCSE Design and Technology

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)		Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1	NEA	
AO1	0	10	10
AO2	0	30	30
AO3	10	10	20
AO4	40	0	40
Overall weighting of components	50	50	100

Year 11 GCSE Design and Technology – NEA Task Timetable

Section & Marks (100)	Content	Completion Date
Section A = 10	Identifying and investigating design possibilities	5 th October 2026
Section B = 10	Producing a design brief and specification	19 th October 2026
Section C = 20	Generating design ideas	23 rd November 2026
Section D = 20	Developing design ideas	5 th January 2027
Section E = 20	Realising design ideas Making day week beginning= 25 th January 2027	8 th February 2027
Section F = 20	Analysing and Evaluating	15 th March 2027
Fully Complete 100	Format, edit, review, improve	22 nd March 2027