



8th July 2024

Dear Parent / Carer,

Design & Technology - Change of Exam Board

You are receiving this letter as your child has selected the Design and Technology GCSE as one of their options for Year 10. I am writing to inform you of a change we have made to the Exam Board for this subject.

After extensive research and consultation, the decision has been made to move from AQA to Pearson Edexcel. Therefore, students will be completing the Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Design and Technology (course code: 1DT0).

There are some key changes that come with the change of exam board. These are detailed below;

Examination Paper:

- **AQA:** The exam is 2 hours long and covers core content **along with** metals, papers and boards, polymers, systems, textiles, and timbers.
- **Edexcel:** The exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes long, divided into two sections. Section A covers core content, and Section B focuses on the material category **chosen** by the student (**one** of the following; metals, papers and boards, polymers, systems, textiles, or timbers).

Both papers are 50% of the qualification and are worth 100 marks each.

The decision to transition to the Pearson Edexcel Design and Technology GCSE has been made for several compelling reasons:

Firstly, the inclusive Scheme of Learning will ensure accessibility for all students, fostering greater engagements and enthusiasm, essential for student success.

Secondly, the Edexcel structure allows for specialisation in materials students are passionate about, aligning better with our existing facilities and strengths. This will provide a more focused and enjoyable learning experience.

Finally, the Edexcel NEA's emphasis on practical skills over extensive written coursework, aligns perfectly with our student's strengths, particularly those who excel in hands-on projects.

We feel this change we benefit the students greatly, however, if you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Peel

Deputy Headteacher

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