

**Belong. Believe. Be Proud.**

The King Alfred School *An Academy*  
Burnham Road,  
Highbridge



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 @KingAlfs

Principal: Mr Nathan Jenkins

Ref:MB/MJM

June 2020

## GCSE Design & Technology

Dear Parent/Carer

The GCSE Design and Technology course consists of two components. An exam component and a NEA coursework component. The NEA coursework component is worth 50% of the final GCSE grade. In June each year the exam board releases the contextual challenges which students should follow when completing their coursework project. All three schools within the Priory Learning Trust have agreed to start this coursework in earnest in September, assuming that we are all more or less back to school by then.

The coursework will run for the majority of Year 11 where all students will be expected to complete a portfolio of approximately 20 A3 sheets, or a computer presentation of between 20 and 40 slides (depending on size of slide and font used). All students will produce a prototype product in the school workshops too, where social distancing rules allow.

No student is obliged to start before Year 11, however we know that some students have been looking forwards to this part of the course and might like to do a little preparation with what's left of Year 10 and / or the summer holidays.

Things students might like to do are:

1. Consider which of the 3 themes released by the exam board this year they might like to focus on. The coursework must follow one of these themes.

### **Theme 1 Climate Emergency Contextual Challenges**

*(a) How can products be used to increase our awareness of the climate emergency?*

*(b) How can products be used to promote a more sustainable lifestyle?*

### **Theme 2 Cinemas Contextual Challenges**

*(a) How can products be used to encourage people to visit the cinema?*

*(b) How can products be used to improve the experience of people at the cinema?*

### **Theme 3 The Coast Contextual Challenges**

*(a) How can products be used to preserve wildlife in coastal areas?*

*(b) How can products be used to stay safe at the coast?*

2. Approach a suitable client who would be prepared to help with the coursework (where social distancing rules allow). A family member is fine and probably easier to interact with.
3. Carry out a small amount of relevant research – perhaps mind mapping all the things they can think of that are connected with their chosen theme, or conduct a safe distance / digital interview with their chosen client.

Design and Technology teachers will be in contact with students electronically in conjunction with this letter to give more advice/guidance and provide some exemplar work to help students.

If a student does wish to make a start there are some important guidelines from the exam board that must be followed and adhered to. It is important that you read this guidance, and both sign and return the slip attached to confirm you will abide by the rules in relation to your work on the NEA coursework at home.

Again I stress that students do not have to do this work now. There will be time in Year 11 to complete all aspects of the coursework.

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully



**Mark Barham**  
**Head of D&T**

**The guidance for NEA completion states that you must:**

1. Complete all the work yourself and declare that this work is yours through the signing of a candidate assessment booklet when you submit the work for assessment to your teacher. If a person other than you is responsible for any work submitted as part of your NEA portfolio, you must declare this in this authentication booklet. It is advised that work included of this nature must be essential to the progress of the project, and by not including it, the progression through the design process would be incomplete. Your marks will not be affected if you include work completed by others in order to explain the design process, but you must complete sufficient work yourself for each area of the mark scheme in your NEA submission.
2. Not share your NEA work with anyone beyond your teacher. This includes emailing copies of the work to others or posting images of your work to social media. Breaches of this rule can lead to the work being invalidated and could result in more severe consequences for both you and the school. It is your responsibility to ensure your work is kept secure and shared only with your classroom teacher.

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**To Mr Barham**

**DT GCSE Acknowledgement**

Please sign and complete the attached slip to acknowledge that you and your carer / parent acknowledge receipt of the contextual challenges and agree to comply with the two rules above.

Name of Student \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Carer / Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_