



March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 students GCSE Design Technology Product Design

The final deadline for the GCSE Design and Technology NEA is **13 March 2026**. On this date your student must submit their **A3 folder and practical piece to room DT3 by 4:30pm at the latest**. The A3 folder must have every page printed and added to the folder. Pages should be in order.

The attached document shows a checklist of all parts of the NEA to submit in the order they should be in the folder. Students can find information and guidance on the subject FROG page - <https://frog.backwellschool.net/0a281a4cd26f6452c369b138190ce125/nea---info>

Please support your student in organising their folder and submitting the work on time. Lunchtime sessions are open for all DT students in Dt3/4 Tuesday to Friday. Afterschool sessions are on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, and next week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:15-4:30pm. These sessions are to support the students in completing their practical pieces but folder work can also be completed in this time.

Practicals cannot be worked on outside of school. Folder work can be completed outside of school as long as it is seen to be the students own work.

We will be using lesson time next week to work on the evaluations, so students should aim to have their practical completed by the end of this week where possible.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to email me at- rlavelle@backwellschool.net

Kind regards

Robin Lavelle
Subject Lead for Design and Technology

AO1 – Identify, Investigate & Outline Checklist

Page	Detail	DONE?
Context Analysis (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mind map – all thoughts about your chosen problem. • Explain the problem you are solving – client, location, possible product etc • Research Plan – what you need to research, why and how. 	
Client Profile (1/2 - 1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the person you are making the product for • A questionnaire they have completed to tell you what they want from the product. • Summary of the findings 	
Product Analysis (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Images of at least $\frac{3}{4}$ products which are similar to what you want to make. • Detailed analysis written about each product. • PSEC – Purpose, Summary, Evaluation, Client Opinion 	
Sizes Research (1/2 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at sizes of objects/items you need to store in your design to make sure you design the product correctly. • PSE – Purpose, Summary, Evaluation 	
Social, Moral, Environmental & Economic Research (fit it in!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you need to do to ensure your product is socially, morally, environmentally and economically friendly? • PSE – Purpose, Summary, Evaluation 	
Design Inspiration (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the work of current designers and/or design movements in an inspiration or mood board – as many images as you can! • How can these ideas be incorporated into your design? 	
Any other RELEVANT research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only research things that will HELP your designing and making in some way! 	
Research Findings (1/4 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chart which SUMMARIZES all the important things you have found out from your research. 	
Design Brief (1/4 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement following your research to say exactly what you are going to design and make 	
Specification (1/2 – 1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A chart which tells the examiner exactly what your product MUST do/be/look like/feel like etc • The chart also say WHY it must do these things – link to research, design brief and client needs. • How will you TEST that it does these things? 	

AO2 – Development of Design Proposals Checklist

Page	Detail	DONE?
Initial Ideas (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 4-6 different ideas for your product • A wide variety of different, sketched ideas. 	
Developed Ideas (1-2 pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3 developed designs • Drawn in more detail with annotation to explain and consider how the ideas would be made and how they could meet the spec. 	
Development Plan (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison chart to justify which design you will develop – spec check & client feedback • Plan/list what you need to look at for development 	
Modelling (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Card or 2D Design model of your product, to scale & made neatly and accurately • Photographed and explained – changes/modifications needed – manufacture thoughts • 2D design modelling and/or Jigs modelling/development 	
Materials Selection (1/3 -1/2 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What materials will you use to make each part? • Detail a few materials you could use and choose the most suitable with reasons for your choice 	
Construction Methods (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What methods could you use to manufacture your design? - Joints research, locking methods, how a part will work? • Detail a few methods and choose the best methods with reasons for your choice 	
Other Development (1-3 pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any other aspect you need to investigate for YOUR design • Investigating things specific to your project – coding, laser engraving, finishes, etc 	
Final Design (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final presentation drawing of your product • All final choices/changes explained in detail • THIS WILL BE THE PRODUCT YOU ACTUALLY MAKE 	
Working Drawing & Cutting List (1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing of each part of your final design with dimensions (in mm's) • A list of the total materials you will need with all the sizes, details and cost of each piece 	
Plan to Make (1/2-1 page)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A simple plan for how you will make your product. • Must include – estimated time taken, quality checks, tools/equipment list, health & safety. 	

AO3 – Analyse & Evaluate Checklist

Page	Detail	DONE?
<i>Production Diary (1 page)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step by step – how did you make your prototype? • Photos of each stage of making • Point out any stages where you made mistakes or adapted your design in ANY way. 	
<i>Completed Prototype (1 page)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finished product – I will take high quality photos for you and add these to your folder. • Is it to a good standard of making? Have you sanded it carefully? Have you applied a finish? 	
<i>Evaluation (1-2 pages)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and evaluation of the WHOLE project (not just your making) • Self evaluation – your opinion – how do you feel you did? • Design cycle evaluation – how did you get to this point? What have you learnt? • Client evaluation – What does your client think? • Testing against the Specification – with PHOTOS! • Modifications & Improvements – WHAT? WHY? HOW? • Manufacturing in industry – HOW? 	
<i>EXTRAS!</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • READ THE MARK SCHEME! They are in the back of each guidebook • Have you covered EVERYTHING??? 	
<i>Contents page</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Page titles with page numbers • Number each page 	
<i>Title Page</i>	<p>Must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your name • Candidate Number • Centre number (50601) • Backwell School 2023/24 • Your chosen Context: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change • Securing or storing personal possessions • Playing Games 	