



11 March 2026

A Level Media Studies NEA

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing to inform you that your son/ daughter will be starting production of their Media Studies NEA (coursework) imminently. This is a practical piece of work, creating a media product (usually two magazine front covers and contents pages) along with an accompanying website. This piece of work is worth **30% of the overall grade for Media Studies A Level**, with the remaining 70% being assessed by two exams at the end of Year 13.

We have chosen to complete the NEA in Year 12 to avoid clashing with NEAs in other subjects, and to allow us to focus on the examined content in Year 13. As the NEA is of a practical nature, it doesn't rely on the knowledge being developed in other parts of the course. This year, the brief is to produce a new health magazine targeted at 16-25 year olds.

The NEA requires students to work independently, managing their time effectively to meet internal deadlines. Much of the work will be completed during lesson time – for example, students will use Adobe Photoshop and Adobe InDesign to complete their magazine production on the computers in SF4. Ample lesson time will be allocated to enable students to complete the production of their magazine and website in school and there is no need for you to have access to Photoshop and InDesign at home.

However, a substantial amount of work will need to be completed outside of lessons. For example, students will need to plan and undertake photoshoots, as well as other research and planning tasks. **It is important that students meet all internal deadlines set**, as we have structured the course carefully to meet the demands of the A Level specification. You can support your young person by periodically checking their Frog assignments and asking them for updates on their progress. Please be assured that we will not set assignments for the NEA during the trial exam week in April.

Some key dates (please note these are subject to change if necessary):

- Friday 01 May – Deadline for Statement of Intent (Magazine).
- Friday 08 May – Deadline for Statement of Intent (Website and Digital Convergence).
- Friday 15 May – Deadline for draft magazine front covers. Feedback to follow.
- Friday 12 June – Deadline for draft magazine contents pages. Feedback to follow.
- Friday 26 June – Deadline for draft website. Feedback to follow.
- Friday 17 July – Deadline for FINAL draft magazine front covers and contents pages.
- Friday 04 September – Deadline for FINAL draft website.

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As you can see from the above, students will be offered feedback on their draft magazine and website, allowing them to make improvements before submitting their final version. Please note that according to JCQ regulations, we are only able to review one draft and our comments will be of a 'general' nature. More information about the arrangements for conducting NEAs are available on the school's website. It is imperative that internal deadlines are met in order that this feedback can be provided; if draft deadlines are missed without prior agreement of the class teacher then we cannot guarantee feedback will be possible.

If you have any questions about the Media Studies NEA, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Polly Procter