



May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 10 Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) in GCSE DT: Product Design

I wanted to get in contact to make you aware of the start of the Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) in GCSE DT: Product Design.

Next term we will be starting the NEA. This is a long investigation, design and make project which will account for 50% of the students final GCSE level for Product Design. We will be working on this up until the **final deadline of 12 March 2027**.

On 1 June 2026, the exam board will release 3 design contexts. Students will start by choosing one of these contexts, find a real-world issue related to it and research, design and manufacture a solution to their chosen issue.

A previous context example would be 'Caring for animals', which led students to design and make feeding stations, animal medicine cabinets, horse saddle and equipment storage, outdoor shelters etc. Students are required to produce an A3 design portfolio (approx. 20-pages) as well as manufacturing a final prototype of their product.

As this is an assessed task, all aspects must be the student's own work. Class teachers are not allowed to give specific feedback on work but will highlight where work is missing and give general advice. The paperwork can be taken home to work on once started in school, but the manufacture of the product must be undertaken only in the school workshops.

Help for, and an overview of, each section of the NEA can be found on the FROG Product Design subject page. - <https://frog.backwellschool.net/0a281a4cd26f6452c369b138190ce125/nea---info>

Mini deadlines will be set throughout the NEA to help students stay on target – these can be found on the link above. It is very important that students keep up with the work. Most home learning will be related to the completion of the NEA. As we progress through the project I will keep you up-to-date with the progress of the NEA. If a student falls behind with the tasks, the home learning catch-up policy will apply, I will notify home and students will be required to attend a catch-up session at lunchtime.

Please can you encourage the completion of work at home or in students own time if they do fall behind. In school, DT2 will be open every break and lunchtime only to D&T Product Design students to complete NEA work. DT2 has several PC's and an A3 printer and I will be around to provide any support or guidance the students may need.

If you have any questions regarding anything to do with the Product Design NEA or any other aspect of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me at rlavelle@backwellschool.net

Yours sincerely

Robin Lavelle
Subject Lead for Design and Technology