



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

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Dear Parents/Carers,

NEA key dates Design and Technology

In Design and Technology 50% of a student's grade consists of an extended piece of work called NEA (Non-exam Assessment)

Students have just begun working on this, from week commencing June 2nd and will continue to do so during their Year 10 and Year 11 lessons, until the final deadline on 27th March 2026.

At this early stage in the process, it is essential students and carers are aware that this work will have a significant impact on their grade, and it is vital all deadlines set must be met and work produced should be done to a suitable quality and standard.

The deadlines below are for internal checks only that we are conducting to allow staff to monitor pupils work as it progresses and will be used to raise concerns, should your child not be meeting the required standard or deadlines.

Any concerns raised will be followed up by additional time in the department with myself or Mrs Stott to ensure a swift improvement of their work.

It is important that parents and carers know that until the final deadline, staff will not be able to give a mark, and at no point can we give an accurate grade for NEA, as the boundaries change annually. This is also not allowed under JCQ rules- details included below. We will simply pause at these dates identified to internally assess if we feel a pupil is meeting the required work by the given deadline and allow them time outside of lessons, to revise submitted work. Generic feedback and advise only will be given as per JCQ rules.

- Check 1: Section A check June 30th
- Check 2: Section A-C check July 21st
- Check 3: Summer tasks/improvement work check section A-C complete September 8th
After this point section A-C will not be reviewed again.
- Check 4: Section D check 6th October
- Check 5: Section A-D fully complete 21st November.
After this point section A-D will not be reviewed again.
- Check 6: Start making final prototype week commencing 1st December.
Students will need to evidence their making- so some folder work will continue to allow for this.
- Check 7: Completion of making of final prototype 23rd February
Work should be taken home temporarily over February half term to allow testing by the client at this point and returned to school for final marking straight after half term.
- Check 8: Section F final check, deadline 27th March

There is then a two-week marking period from 27th March – 20th April (Easter break falls between these dates) where students MAY be required to make minor improvements to their work, this will be by invitation from staff only.

Final deadline 27th March: Any work submitted after this date will not be marked or submitted to the exam board.

After this point section A-F will not be reviewed again and final marks will be given to students following the moderation, on or around the 20th April 2026.

Details of the criteria students will be marked against can be found on AQA specification link below pages 41-48 [AQA specification](#)

Students can and will be expected to work at home on part of their NEA, e.g. client interviews. Any tasks relating to this will be set via Show my homework during term time, and occasionally over holidays, but it is important this work be their own and not completed by anyone else as per JCQ rules.

Additional support sessions are already running on Tuesday and Thursday lunch times in F1 and will continue throughout the year. A new day for this will be communicated along with after school support sessions in September. I would encourage all students to make use of this every week as much as possible. Missing any NEA tasks set on SMHW, will result in being made to attend a lunch time detention, to complete and submit the work required.

We cannot stress enough how important a student's success in DT overall is related to their NEA work as this is 50% of their grade and students must therefore take ownership and responsibility for the production of this work.

I have attached a copy of the JCQ rules below, that all centres must follow with regards to both in lesson support and feedback that they can give to students when completing NEA work, across all exam boards.

Please take a few minutes to view these and discuss them with your child, as these are not something the school or I control, and we are bound by them. Please take particular care to familiarise yourself and your child with the sections regarding what a teacher can and cannot do, on pages 4-5 [JCQ rules](#)

I trust you find this information helpful and should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me on the e-mail address provided: Hheanue@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,



H Heanue
Deputy Head of Design and Technology