

Design & Technology Year 11 Curriculum Overview



Year 11 Overview

The Year 11 Design & Technology curriculum focuses on completing the Eduqas Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) alongside developing strong theoretical knowledge for the final examination. Across the autumn and spring terms, students engage in the full iterative design process: exploring contextual challenges, conducting research, creating client profiles, and producing detailed design briefs and specifications. They then progress to generating and developing creative ideas, modelling concepts, and selecting appropriate materials and components with sustainability in mind. Technical communication skills are reinforced through CAD, orthographic drawings, and manufacturing plans, culminating in the production of a high-quality prototype. In the summer term, students complete their NEA portfolio and prototype before transitioning to intensive exam preparation, focusing on study skills, revision strategies, and targeted theory review to ensure success in both practical and written assessments.

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Week Number	Themes/ Topics	Key Knowledge & Skills	Key Assessments
Autumn Term	Section A, B & C of NEA	- Understand contextual challenges; identify user needs; mind mapping; primary research planning - Task analysis; research plan creation; primary & secondary research methods - Develop client profile; conduct interviews/questionnaires; draft initial specification using ACCESSFM - Analyse designers and companies; extract inspiration; evaluate design influences - ACCESSFM analysis; SMCEES and 6Rs; write design criteria - Summarise research findings, link to design planning - Write design brief, complete detailed specification with justification - Produce a range of creative ideas; apply research and specification; sketching and CAD - Produce a range of creative ideas; apply research and specification; sketching and CAD	NEA is 50% of the overall GCSE
Spring Term	Section D & E of NEA	- Create physical/CAD models; evaluate against spec; gather feedback - Research and justify material/component choices, sustainability considerations - Produce final CAD/isometric drawing; rendering; portfolio layout - Orthographic projection; cutting list; manufacturing plan - Apply practical skills; quality control; safety - Evaluate prototype; suggest improvements; present modifications	NEA is 50% of the overall GCSE
Summer Term	Exam Preparation	- Revision strategies; time management; exam command words; past paper practice; targeted theory review (materials, processes, sustainability, design movements) - Focused sessions on weaker areas; exam technique drills; peer teaching; retrieval practice. - Study Skills, flash cards, brain dumps, mind mapping, self-quizzing.	N/A