



Stour Valley Community School  
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Headteacher Mrs Rachel Kelly BA (Hons)

8 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: GCSE Technology

I am very pleased that your child has opted to take GCSE Technology and I look forward to working together over the next two years. As explained in the options booklet and presentation, the course is made up of a combination of practical and theory work designed to build on student knowledge. Students failing to meet deadlines during non-exam assessments risk achieving lower grades as all tasks have set timings and extensions are not permitted.

### Materials

You will all be familiar with the voluntary contribution system for KS3 Technology that we have successfully run since the beginning of Stour Valley. It has provided excellent value for money for parents/carers and has always insured that students have the correct materials for their practical lessons/projects. In the past while the Technology department provided all the basic materials that KS4 students needed to produce their projects in both Year 10 and for their GCSE projects; students have then been expected to supply their own specialist materials, components and finishes. In recent years this has often led to parents/carers paying more than they needed for materials and components as they do not have the ability to buy in bulk at trade prices. It has also meant that students have not always had their materials available when they were needed; this often led to increased stress on students and on occasions projects not being fully realised.

In an effort to make sure that students always have access to any material, components and finishes that they may require, the Technology department runs a voluntary contribution scheme for KS4 Technology. Parents/carers may choose to opt in and pay a one-off contribution of £20 via ParentPay. This will cover the cost of the materials, components and finishes their child will require throughout Years 10 and 11. I have been able to keep the cost the same as last year despite significant price increases for materials in both Resistant Materials and Graphics. I believe that this scheme will offer parents/carers and students excellent value for money, as well as ensure that all materials and components are available to your child when needed. I fully appreciate this is an additional cost at a busy time of the year, particularly with households being affected by rising costs for goods and services. Should you wish to take part in the voluntary contribution system but find difficulty in making the payment, please contact the school's Finance Office to discuss further.



Please complete and return the attached reply slip, in time for your child's next Technology lesson, in an envelope with their name, form group and 'KS4 Technology' clearly written on the envelope.

### Textbooks

The course is supported by a number of different publications depending on your child's chosen specialism. They would not have to bring these into school as we have a set of each available for use in the classroom, however, I believe they will prove to be extremely helpful for completing homework, research and planning controlled assessments.

For RM – AQA Design & Technology: Timber, Metal Based Materials and Polymers; published by Hodder Education ISBN 9781510401129.

For Graphics – AQA Design & Technology: Paper & Boards; published by Hodder Education ISBN 9781510401099.

Both of the above books are exceptionally detailed and provide information on the GCSE course's exam content as well as information on how to approach the non-exam assessment element of the course. They are however relatively expensive at over £20. A far more affordable option (at under £6) might be the following:

GCSE AQA Design and Technology for the grade 9-1 course - the revision guide - published CGP. ISBN 9781782947523. This book covers the theory for the exam paper in a very accessible format.

### Protective Clothing

Protective clothing is provided, however, all students are expected to wear flat shoes that completely cover the top of the foot and offer protection in a workshop or studio environment.

### Homework

This will be set weekly, and it will be a requirement for all students to complete in order to achieve their potential grades as quite often it will involve working on their GCSE NEA.

I look forward to working with your child and should you have any enquiries regarding the course please do not hesitate to contact via email at: [acoe@stourvalley.org](mailto:acoe@stourvalley.org)

Yours faithfully



Andy Coe  
Head of Faculty – Technology and Art



Stour Valley Community School KS4 Technology Reply Slip – Mr A Coe

Student Name: ..... Tutor Group: .....

I confirm that I would like to participate in the voluntary contribution scheme that I have paid/will pay the £20 contribution via ParentPay

I confirm that I do not want to participate in the voluntary contribution and am willing to provide non-standard materials, components and finishes as and when required

I have noted the information regarding appropriate footwear

Parent/Carer signature: ..... Date: .....

**Please return reply by NEXT LESSON in an envelope with NAME, FORM and KS4 Technology written on the envelope**

