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

Dear Parents/Carers                                                                                    24 September 2021

**Re: GCSE Technology**

I am very pleased that your child has opted to take GCSE Technology and I look forward to working with them 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.  Please note that 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/ingredients for their practical lessons/projects.  In the past, whilst the Technology department provided all basic materials, required by KS4 students to produce their projects in both Year 10 and for their GCSE projects, students have also been expected to supply their own specialist materials, components and finishes.  In recent years this has often led to parents/carers spending more than needed for materials and components due to the inability to purchase items at trade prices.  It has also meant that students have not always had access to materials when needed, leading to possible distress and, on occasions, projects not being fully realised.

In an effort to ensure that students always have access to any material, components and finishes 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 materials, components and finishes required throughout Years 10 and 11.  I believe this scheme offers excellent value for money and will ensure all materials and components are available to your child when needed.

Textbooks

The course is supported by a number of different publications depending on your child's chosen specialism.

- RM – AQA Design & Technology: Timber, Metal based materials and polymers; published by Hodder Education ISBN 9781510401129.
- Graphics – AQA Design & Technology: Paper & boards; published by Hodder Education ISBN 9781510401099.
- Textiles – AQA Design & Technology: Textile-based materials; published by Hodder Education ISBN 9781510401112

Students will not be required to bring textbooks into school as we have a set of each available, however, I believe they will prove to be extremely helpful for completing homework, research and planning controlled assessments.

Protective Clothing

Protective clothing is provided, and 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

Set on weekly basis and is 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 if there are any questions about the course please do not hesitate to contact via email at: acoe@stourvalley.org

Yours faithfully

Andy Coe - Head of Technology Faculty

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Stour Valley Community School KS4 Technology Reply Slip

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

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

☐ I confirm that I **do not want to** take part 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.