

Dear Parents and Carers of Design Technology students

7 May 2025

At Stour Valley Community School, our Year 10 students will shortly be embarking on their NEA portfolios in Design Technology, a key component of the GCSE course, and we wanted to give you some information regarding what it is, its importance, and how assistance can be given at home.

NEA stands for Non-Exam Assessment and is coursework that counts to a student's overall grade, in this case 50% of the overall grade. The other 50% is made up from the summer exam in 2026.

The coursework is a portfolio project. This starts the first week back in June 2025 and will run through until early March 2026. The portfolio is digital, in the form of a PowerPoint, but all work can be completed on paper, hand written and drawn and scanned into the PowerPoint during lessons. Themes for portfolios will not be known until Sunday 1 June when they are released by AQA.

Work can be completed at home either digitally or on paper. Following every lesson students will be required to complete any missing work at home or during lunchtime support sessions in G5 every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday lunchtime. If this does not happen then students will find themselves behind and will suffer a loss of marks. Students will have this homework to complete every week.

**Marks are awarded as follows:**

- **Research /10**
- **Design Brief & Criteria - /10**
- **Generating Design Ideas - /20**
- **Design Development - /20**
- **Realising Ideas (Making) -/20**
- **Testing & Evaluating -/20**

Students will be designing for a particular user, and feedback at all stages will be useful. Regular discussions and viewing of the portfolio by this user will help students considerably.

Walk-through guides are available on the school shared area and on Teams, students know where these are and have been using them throughout Year 10 lessons. These resources guide students (and parent/carers) through every part of the course, give exemplar work and show assessment criteria.

Should you have any concerns or questions, please email direct at:  
[dstephens@stourvalley.org](mailto:dstephens@stourvalley.org) or [acoe@stourvalley.org](mailto:acoe@stourvalley.org) respectively. We very much look forward to the exciting projects that this years' cohort produces.

Yours faithfully

Mr Stephens & Mr Coe

