

Overview of Year 10 Design & Technology

In Year 10 the focus is on preparation for *GCSE* coursework. This is achieved through pupils undertaking two minor projects throughout the year which are designed to give them an experience of the type of work they will be required to do in Year 11.

It is also designed to ensure that all pupils gain a minimum of *Grade 6* at *GCSE* level as the work produced is retained.

Two lessons per week are spent on designing and making and the third lesson on theory topics.

Homework

This is set twice per week and is designed to support the work done in lessons. The main types of homework set are research tasks and other coursework tasks for inclusion in design folders, theory-based homework and two 'Independent Study' tasks which are designed to encourage and develop good research, analysis and presentation skills.

Assessment

Each minor project is assessed according to *GCSE* marking criteria in order to track pupil progress of target grades. The Independent Study and five other key pieces of minor project coursework are formally assessed according to the school's AfL policy. To complete the tracking process, in January of Year 10, a formal examination takes place. This consists of questions from a past *GCSE* paper. For Resistant Materials and Graphic Products, the examination is based around a theme and preparation time is allowed prior to the exam.

How Parents can help

- Check that homework is recorded in your son's planner
- Ensure that all homework coursework and Independent Study tasks are complete to a good standard and by the deadlines set
- Encourage your son to attend the after-school sessions offered by his subject teacher
- Ensure that your son has a pen, pencil, apron and other equipment necessary for the successful completion of his *GCSE* course
- Help your son to prepare thoroughly for his examination by encouraging him to use the preparation sheet provided.