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Lorna Pountney
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13 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Subject: Update on GCSE Design and Technology

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the current situation regarding the GCSE Design and Technology course.

As you may be aware, our original DT teacher left unexpectedly in February 2025. Since then, despite significant efforts, we have unfortunately been unable to secure a permanent replacement. The national shortage of qualified DT teachers has made this particularly challenging, as it is essential that we appoint someone with the right skills and experience to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students.

In the meantime, we have had a succession of long-term cover teachers, several of whom were DT specialists, who have worked hard to maintain continuity and support students' progress under difficult circumstances. While this situation has not been ideal, our students have shown great resilience and commitment.

I am pleased to inform you that a new DT teacher will be joining the team next week. They will initially teach on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, increasing to a full-time role from January. They have already reviewed the Year 11 NEA schedule and are confident that the cohort remains on track. Students should now be completing their design ideas and will begin the practical making phase over the next few weeks, with NEAs expected to be completed by March/April.

Until Christmas, Monday, Thursday and Friday lessons will continue to be covered by a DT-trained long-term supply teacher to ensure consistency and continued practical opportunities.

Students are also preparing for their DT Theory mock exam this week, and we appreciate their continued hard work and cooperation throughout this period.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate these staffing challenges. We remain fully committed to ensuring that your child receives high-quality teaching and achieves their best possible outcomes in DT. I will continue to keep you informed of any further updates.

Yours sincerely

Lorna Pountney
Head of School