



## Aylesbury High School | #AHSWalksTall

Developing uniquely talented young adults, who are independent, strong and confident

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Dear Parent/Carer,

As students embark on their Product Design A Level, we thought it would be useful to share an overview of the course.

### **In Product Design:**

The students in the Design, Technology and Engineering department will work on a range of tasks throughout most of year 12. These will be taught by Mr Potkin and Mr Mitchell. These help them to learn different materials and manufacturing processes with an aim that students become fluent in the skills used at A Level and to stretch and challenge their abilities. They will also learn different designing techniques, including CAD and also the theory knowledge needed to answer examination questions.

### **Textbooks and resources:**

They should get the text book from AQA. This is available from a number of stores or directly from Hodder. This textbook is used in some class and homework pieces. This one is useful for when they start Year 12 and it contains all of the information required throughout the course to meet the specification. It will be useful for the students to have some black ink drawing pens (ideally 0.1, 0.5 and 1mm), an A3 folder in which to keep their work, set squares, ruler and a pair of compasses. There are a number of places where these can be purchased.

The students will be able to access resources through their Google Classroom but these are also available in the Design and Technology site in their home page. We also have our bespoke Google Site for Year 12 (and another for when they start Year 13) that has all of the resources that we use for lessons, making it easy for students to access at home should they need to catch up or revise. We send out revision lists prior to tests so that students can revise effectively. In Year 12, there will be mock examinations in the summer term.

### **Homework and assessment:**

Homework will be set once a week (sometimes twice a week) in Product Design to give the students time to consolidate their understanding of work covered at school. Homework may take the form of a written or online piece and is marked in class where feedback is given. If they are struggling with their homework then they should talk to their teacher about it so that support can be provided. We will continuously monitor student progress throughout the years by conducting spot tests on current topics to check that homework and classwork is understood.

### **Revision:**

There are a couple of websites useful for revision. These are linked to the subject area in the students' homepage. These can be used for revision of topics covered throughout the year as well as for homework pieces. There will be examination practice papers and worksheets that will also help in

the run up to tests. Students will be able to attend extra workshop time once a week for support if they feel they need it.

**Co-curricular:** Students will be able to enter competitions and join clubs during the course. They will all compete in the Rotary tournament in February.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr Mark Potkin, Head of Design, Technology and Engineering, at [mpotkin@ahs.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:mpotkin@ahs.bucks.sch.uk)