

Dear parents and carers,

The Design Technology department realise that the GCSE options choices our Year 9 students face this year are more confusing than ever. This situation has also not been helped by the impact that COVID-19 has had on our ability to deliver a full experience of Design Technology in our specialist workshops - something that we and the students have missed hugely. In order to hopefully provide some much-needed clarity, I wanted to further explain the Technology provision for GCSE in September 2021.

We are offering the following courses:

EDEXCEL Design Technology (Split into 2 areas)
AQA Food and Nutrition
AQA Art Textiles

EDEXCEL Design Technology is split into 2 areas (Graphics and Product Design) as in our experience, some students tend to lean towards one area more than the other. They are, in effect, the same course, the only difference being the focus of the specialised theory that makes up 50% of the exam. Students who prefer working with woods, metals and plastics tend to choose Product Design, while students who prefer to work with different cards and boards tend to choose Graphics. There is no advantage in choosing one course over the other. We have only split it to offer more choice for our students.

AQA Food and Nutrition is taught in our state-of-the-art food preparation room within the department and while it is considered a Design Technology subject, it is a completely separate subject in terms of options. It is possible to choose Design Technology as well as Food and Nutrition.

AQA Art Textiles is being offered by the department for the first time this year. Currently, students can still choose a textiles-themed project in Design Technology in Year 11, however we felt it beneficial to offer a completely separate textiles course which does not have the same emphasis on theoretical knowledge that the Design Technology course does. AQA Art Textiles is a more project-based course with a 10-hour practical exam in Year 11, rather than a written paper.

I hope these points have helped to answer any remaining questions you or your child may have had regarding the courses we offer. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further questions.

Kind Regards,

Alex Brown

Head of Design Technology (abrown@ccs.northants.sch.uk)

Secondary: 01604 669200 **Primary:** 01604 669210 **Website:** www.ccs.northants.sch.uk

Principal: David James **Vice Principals:** Andrew Fisher Katherine Patterson Gary Wakefield

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The Wooldale Centre for Learning, Wootton Fields, Northampton NN4 6TP