

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Provision of specialist materials and equipment at Key Stage 5

During A Level Product Design, the course content of yr12 and yr13 is very different. During yr12, students will spend the majority of the time studying the theory content required for their A Level exam papers. This is broken up with short focused practical tasks that allow students to experiment and improve the practical skills they will need to use when they design, develop and make the prototype of their choice as part of their Non-Exam Assessment. The NEA is begun after Easter in yr12 and students invariably work with timber, plastic, electronic components and compliant materials, such as papers and boards, during both the short focused practical tasks and for their final NEA prototype.

As a department, we purchase many of the materials we use in bulk from wholesale and trade suppliers to keep costs down, avoiding the need for parents/carers to buy materials for their children individually, at a greater price. Aprons are also provided for practical activities to protect uniforms from damage. One **voluntary contribution** of £15.00 is requested towards providing all the specialist materials and resources students will use throughout the two years they will spend studying the course for the products they will bring home.

Scopay is now the preferred method of payment for all trips, visits and school activities. If you visit www.scopay.com you will see payment details. If you have mislaid your Scopay login details, please call Pupil Services. Should you still wish to pay by cash or cheque (cheques should be made payable to *Rayleigh Schools Trust*) Please visit Pupil Services. If you have any Scopay queries regarding this contribution, please contact Mrs A Twomey (atwomey@sweynepark.com).

Whilst studying A Level Product Design, students will not be requested to provide any resources for themselves from home, as using what is supplied by the department ensures consistency of the materials used and allows for the materials to be prepared in advance by the department technician. This approach facilitates the smooth and efficient running of lessons, saving valuable learning time. Should a student wish to enhance the products that they design and make with resources from home, they are more than welcome to bring them in as and when they are needed, but this is not an expectation.

I hope all students enjoy the experiences they will have during their A Level Product Design lessons and that they become more knowledgeable, creative and confident in their practical ability as a result.

Yours faithfully



Mrs M Curd
Head of Resistant Materials