

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Provision of specialist materials and equipment at Key Stage 4

During GCSE Design & Technology, the course content of yr10 and yr11 is very different. During yr10, pupils will spend the majority of the time studying the theory content required for their GCSE exam paper. This is broken up with short focused practical tasks that allow pupils to 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 towards the end of yr10 when the exam board releases the contextual challenge themes. Pupils studying GCSE D&T from a Resistant Materials slant invariably work with timber, plastic and compliant materials, such as papers and boards, during both the short focused practical tasks and for their final NEA prototype. Practical activities include working with tools, machinery and equipment to produce products that pupils will be able to take home.

As a department, we purchase many of the materials we use in bulk from wholesale and trade suppliers in order 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 £10.00 is requested towards providing all the specialist materials and resources pupils 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](http://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](mailto:atwomey@sweynepark.com)).**

Whilst studying GCSE D&T in Resistant Materials, pupils 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 pupil 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 pupils enjoy the experiences they will have during their GCSE D&T Resistant Materials 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