

15 July 2026

Dear families,

RE: Summer break checklist

It's been brilliant watching students grow in confidence this year with their research, sketching, design development and making skills in 3D Design. This year they've completed three fantastic projects:

Lighting - Inspired by Tom Raffield – a light pendant made from flexi-ply

Sculpture - Inspired by David Smith – a pewter cast shape and a wooden sculpture

Storage - Inspired by Ettore Sottsass – a miniature storage piece in bold Memphis style

I'm proud of how much they've achieved this year, and I'm excited to see them build on this even further.

Your child has come home with a checklist and a pack of resources (glue, fine liners, card and post it notes) to support them over the summer to complete the following:

Finish Off Any Gaps

Using the checklist, students should check each project against the assessment objectives. Is there enough evidence of research, sketching, design development, and evaluation alongside the outcome? Gaps here often make the biggest difference to progress, so encourage your child to add extra sketches, annotations, photos of development stages, or a written evaluation wherever it's missing. If nothing is missing, they can use their initiative to push their ideas further with additional design work.

Get a Head Start on 'Curious Creations'

In September, students begin a new project: designing and making a windchime inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Tim Burton, or Laika Studios. Over the summer, they should pick a theme and start researching and sketching — collecting images, colours, and initial ideas, and trying out a few rough design sketches to explore possibilities before they even get started in class.

A Quick Reminder

All coursework forms part of their NEA (Non-Exam Assessment), which makes up a large part of their final AQA 3D Design grade — so every sketch, photo, and note genuinely counts. Encourage your child to photograph their work regularly, including any development stages, so nothing is lost along the way. Strong sketching, research and development work is what really strengthens a grade, so the more students bring back in September, the more confident and ready to progress they'll be. Wishing you and your family a lovely summer break! Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Yacoob

Teacher of Design and Technology

