



24 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Engineering BTEC course in Year 9

In September 2019, our former SENDCO Miss Wilkin-Mead, introduced a BTEC Engineering course. Since her departure in December 2020, we have struggled to be able to run this course effectively to ensure that students gain good grades at the end of the course. This has proved even more difficult during the last few months, where lock down and COVID restrictions have meant that we cannot access the TDMS workshops. We have no Engineering expertise either in TDMS or across The Four Stones MAT to be able to deliver the course effectively.

For this reason, we have reached the difficult decision that we are going to terminate the course after Easter. We feel that it is better to make the decision now so that the students have more time to choose another subject. I realise that this will be very disappointing but we feel that the students have a better chance of getting a good grade in a different subject rather than continuing with a course where we simply don't have the expertise to support the students properly. We will provide whatever extra support is needed to get them up to date by the end of this academic year.

To address the issue of what course might replace Engineering, we will be asking students to pick from two possible choices. The first choice will be to replace Engineering with GCSE Design Technology, which is the closest course that we can offer. Students making this choice will remain in the current group being taught by Mr McGuire. The school has considerable expertise in delivering this course, plus it can also access the wider subject expertise available across The Four Stones MAT. The second choice open to students will be to choose a different subject in the option block. A student in 9A Engineering for instance, will choose another subject in Block A; a student in 9B Engineering will choose another subject in Block B. The range of subjects and the number of places available in each subject is shown in the table below:

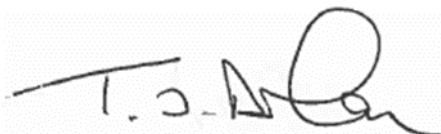
Group	Subjects available	
9A Engineering	These are the other subjects available in the block and the number of places available:	
	Computing: 6 spaces Geography: 10 spaces Health & Social: 7 spaces	History: 2 places Music: 9 spaces Sport: 14 spaces
9B Engineering	These are the other subjects available in the block and the number of places available:	
	Art: 6 spaces Business: 3 spaces Geography: 10 spaces Music Technology: 12 spaces	Psychology: 4 spaces Sport: 15 spaces Spanish: 13 spaces

The next steps for each student will be to consider both options and then to make a decision. To help with this, we recommend that students look at the information on our [KS4 options page](#). They may also wish to join our KS4 options site in Google Classroom: the joining code for this is: **dxknmw**

Once students have made their decision, they will need to complete the attached cut off slip, which needs to be returned by Monday 19 April 2021. Given that some courses have limited spaces, we recommend a quick return.

We have met with all the students and explained the situation and what needs to be done to take the next steps. Whilst we appreciate how disappointing this news may be, we do consider that is in the students' best interests. Of course, we will be very happy to discuss this with you in greater depth. In the first instance please contact your son or daughter's Head of Learning and Senior Intervention Tutor.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Dolan
Deputy Head (Curriculum)

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Reply Slip

Please complete the reply slip information below, then return to your HOL or SIT

- (1) Which Engineering Group are you in:
- (2) What is your name and Form?
- (3) Please tick one of the options below:

Option 1: remain in the same group to study GCSE Design Technology

Option 2: choose a different subject from the block that your Engineering group is in

If you are choosing Option 2, please select a first choice subject and a reserve choice:

First choice:

Reserve choice:

Student name:	Student signature:	Date:
Parent name:	Parent signature:	Date:

Please return to your HOL or SIT by Monday 19 April 2021