



Brine Leas School

An Academy

Believe, Learn, Succeed

November 2017

Re: Key Stage 4 Engineering Qualifications

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are in a fortunate position to offer two qualifications for Engineering to cater for differing students learning preferences to help them to maximise their potential and progress onto courses at a higher level. Since September all engineering students have been taught skills applicable to GCSE Engineering and Engineering Tech Award. Technical Awards are high quality and rigorous vocational qualifications, comparable with GCSEs that are more practical in nature and provide students with knowledge and highly sought-after skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the workplace. Further information can be found at <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards.html>.

At the end of November we will be carrying out three assessments over a two week period. These assessments will take the form of a written examination, a Computer Aided Design assessment (CAD) and an element of practical work. The content of the assessments will be based on material covered since the start of term. The written paper will take place under formal examination conditions on Wednesday 6th December 2017.

We will use the results to make a final assessment on whether students should follow the GCSE in Engineering or Technical Award in qualification in Engineering. The final groups will be implemented from the start of the January 2018.

The table attached outlines the main differences between the GCSE Engineering qualification and the Technical award qualification:

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GCSE Engineering	Engineering Technical Award
Exam board: AQA	Exam board: Pearson
<p>Component 1: External assessment 60% Written examination</p> <p>Paper 2: Externally set assignment 40% Non-examination, internally assessed and externally moderated</p>	<p>Component 1: Exploring Engineering Sectors and Design Applications Non-examination, Internally assessed, externally moderated</p> <p>Component 2: Investigating an Engineering Project Internally assessed, externally moderated</p> <p>Component 3: Synoptic Assessment - Responding to an Engineering Brief Set by the exam board, externally assessed</p>

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me on the school number.

Yours faithfully



Mr P. Barton.
Head of Design and Technology.
PBN/SJ/KB