Dear Parent/Guardian,

iDesign project 2016

iDesign is a compulsory individual project of choice that all Year 8 boys will undertake at home throughout Terms 1, 2 and 3, 2016. Final projects are due at the start of Term 4.

It is important that each boy selects an iDesign project topic that suits his passions and interests.

Each project will need to fit within one of the following three categories:

1. **Sustainability**: the capacity to endure. Achieving sustainability will enable the Earth to continue supporting human life as we know it.
2. **Innovation**: the creation of better or more effective products, processes, technologies, or ideas and a substantial positive change.
3. **Creativity**: the creation of any product, solution or piece of art, music, film or digital art piece. This may be the result of a newly learned skill.

Each boy will work with a mentor throughout the iDesign process. They can select their mentor either before or after deciding on their topic. Each boy will need to meet with his mentor on a regular basis throughout the next two terms in order to plan and complete the iDesign project.

The boys are required to log their progress regularly in their e-portfolio on The Hub, adding pictures and comments to their iDesign collection along the way. Final projects will be presented in form groups in Term 4.

Please visit the blog for further information and project ideas www.inov8ion.wordpress.com. Please also ensure that you read the Guidelines for parents below before completing the attached Parent consent form.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on jwatson@brightongrammar.vic.edu.au

Thanks in advance for your support with iDesign 2016.

Yours sincerely,

Jamie Watson
Teacher of Extension Studies
Middle School
Guidelines for parents

Objectives of iDesign

The iDesign project is compulsory for all Year 8 boys. This individual project provides the boys with an opportunity to demonstrate independence and originality, to plan and organise a larger project over a longer period, and to put into practice some of the skills they will have learned from their mentor. No matter what their level of academic achievement, the boys can highlight their individuality and inspiration through the iDesign project. Although there will be a week allocated in Term 3 where the project will take priority over other homework, this project should not take priority over other homework at any other time – it is important that the scale of the project remains manageable.

Choosing an individual project

The idea for this project can be their own, or can be based on a suggestion from a mentor, parent or member of staff. It is each boy’s responsibility to find a mentor. They may wish to choose their mentor first and then come up with the project idea afterwards, rather than the other way around.

Mentors

The School takes no responsibility for the appropriateness or behaviour of the student’s mentor. It is the responsibility of each boy’s parents or guardians to ensure that assigned mentors are of an appropriate nature. Where possible, the School recommends that the mentor is a family member. Where this is not possible, the School expects that a parent or guardian will be present at all meetings with the mentor.

Health and safety

As all projects are to be completed off the School site, BGS takes no responsibility for the safety of the environment in which the boys work on their project. It is the responsibility of the each boy’s parents or guardians to ensure that the working environment is of a safe and appropriate nature. All boys must be supervised by an adult while working on their iDesign project.

Choosing the right project

iDesign projects vary substantially in breadth, depth and degree of difficulty. Some students are better suited to well-defined and relatively safe projects that provide scope for demonstrating proficiency with a low risk of failure. Other students are better advised to tackle harder, riskier projects that require a higher degree of original input and/or technical problem solving. It may be helpful to shortlist a set of projects for your son. If your son is looking to achieve high marks in his project or he is hoping to achieve Highly Commended status or to win one of the illustrious iDesign project prizes, he should choose the final project with particular care. Remember, it is important to balance ambition with realism.

Choosing the right category

Selecting the appropriate category should be done at the planning stage of the project. Boys can choose from the following three categories:

1. Sustainability: the capacity to endure. Achieving sustainability will enable the Earth to continue supporting human life as we know it.
2. Innovation: the creation of better or more effective products, processes, technologies, or ideas and a substantial positive change.
3. Creativity: the creation of any product, solution or piece of art, music, film or digital art piece. This may be the result of a newly learned skill.
Keeping a log

Please ensure your son keeps a log of his progress throughout this process in the form of a diary and photographs, via his e-portfolio on The Hub (which must be shared with the House Tutor). This project log is an extremely important aspect of the iDesign project and serves to show what the boys have achieved along the way. This should also include an evaluation after completion of the project. The log will demonstrate that the student can:

- record his progress with notes, photographs and/or video
- explain his thinking and working processes clearly and concisely to third parties who may not be experts in that particular field
- use this information to make a brief presentation to the class, staff, parents and judges
- objectively evaluate his own work and make constructive suggestions for improvements.

If your son is lost for ideas, visit http://inov8ion.wordpress.com/ for inspiration.

Parent consent form – return to MS Reception by Friday 11 March

I give permission for my son, _____________________________, in form __________, to enter the iDesign project. I have read the information and guidelines and I understand what is required.

His project title is __________________________________________________________

Project category (select one only): ☐ Creativity ☐ Innovation ☐ Sustainability

His mentor will be ___________________________________________________________

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _______________________________________________

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian: ___________________________________________

Phone Number/Email Address: ______________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________________________________