


## NEA Context: ‘Supporting the RWS Community’

Task and Resources Required	Work to be completed
<p><b><u>Task 1 – Exploration of context</u></b></p> <p>50% of your A Level in Design &amp; Technology (Product Design) comes from the <b>Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)</b> that challenges you to <b>identify real-world problems</b> and develop <b>innovative solutions</b>. This task is the first step in that process.</p> <p>Your design context is <b>“Supporting the RWS Community”</b></p> <p>This could relate to <b>any aspect</b> of the school community, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Curriculum learning, subject-specific activities, teaching and learning, revision and independent study, homework, assessment and feedback.</li> <li>• Extra-curricular enrichment clubs, sport, performing arts, etc.</li> <li>• Wellbeing and mental health, inclusion and accessibility, SEND provision.</li> <li>• Sustainability and environmental impact, site maintenance, safety and security.</li> <li>• Student organisation, communication and information sharing, catering and dining facilities</li> <li>• Social spaces, outdoor spaces, transport and travel, student leadership, community engagement, whole school events (Sports Day, Ravens Woodstock, etc).</li> <li>• Visitors to the school, transition between year groups, and the overall day-to-day experience of students, staff, parents and carers.</li> </ul> <p>Your first task is to identify a <b>wide range</b> of genuine <b>needs</b> and <b>opportunities</b> to support members of the RWS community – see next column for details and next slides for examples of what this might look like – formatting/layout of your work is completely up to you.</p>	<p><b><u>Task 1</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1x A3 PowerPoint slide.</li> <li>• Range of images that show potential areas of the school that you might choose to focus on.</li> <li>• Annotations that expand on the images and explain some of the potential issues/problems that members of the RWS community might face.</li> <li>• As a starting point, you might want to use the school website - <a href="#">Ravens Wood School - Committed to Excellence</a></li> <li>• Within this, you might want to look at the school’s enrichment - <a href="#">Enrichment Curriculum - Ravens Wood School - Committed to Excellence</a></li> </ul>

# Examples of Task 1: Exploration of Context


### Exploration of context

**University**




**Enhanced studying to achieve a degree in a specific area.**  
**Issues-** Incredibly expensive leaving people with years of debt  
**New environment** with many on their own  
Drastic change to living situations  
Intense workload  
Struggle to balance studying and work

**Gap year**




**A break taken by a student between school and university**  
**Issues-** No income  
May fall behind friends and other close ones  
No structure to your life can lead to laziness  
Will struggle to readapt to the working mindset after a long time off  
Harder to find a job with little experience

**Self-employment/ Starting a business**




**The state of working for oneself as freelance or owning a business**  
**Issues-** Uncertainty around income as there is no employer to pay you regularly  
Irregular hours due to no fixed worked due to fluctuations in the market  
Very high chance of burnout due to managing everything

**Access Courses**




An educational course allowing those without qualifications to access higher education like University  
**Issues-** High workload which won't suit those who are looking at this after an unsuccessful a levels  
The potential cost of access courses could be high because it is not government funded like A levels  
Taking one of these courses would put you behind your friends in education and make you start working later if you then choose University after

**Employment**




**Working under someone who sets you jobs to do while being paid a full wage.**  
**Issues-** Less free time to relax do hobbies and socialise  
Increased stress on mental health with pressure of deadlines  
Dependence on the employer for the steady income  
Sacrifices to living arrangements if the job is further away.

**Apprenticeships**



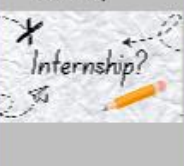
**Learning a trade from a skilled employer working for fixed time and low wage.**  
**Issues-** Only paid minimum wage  
Long hours compared to wage  
Piles stress if alongside studies  
Creates a tunnel vision on that job in particular limiting future opportunities

**Volunteering**




**Freely offer to help people and communities with no benefit of your own**  
**Issues-** Unpaid so no financial gain to support yourself  
Hours can be unpredictable making it hard to plan things in advance  
Long hours and strong stories may lead to burn out making motivation to work harder  
May become demotivated if no results are seen quickly.

**Internship**




**Position of a student/trainee who works in an organisation without pay to gain experience.**  
**Issues-** Low or no pay which is financially challenging for those taking first steps in independent life  
Unfulfilling work like coffee runs or filing papers can lead to interns being put off the career they initially wanted to  
Meaningless tasks don't allow for interns to understand the inner working of the industry they are working in.

**Vocational training**



**Education and instruction focused on providing practical skills and knowledge for a specific trade.**  
**Issues-** Tunnel vision on one specific career making it harder to pivot if it goes wrong or interests change  
Social stigmas around vocational training make some employers view it as less valuable or desirable when hiring leading to self-doubt in your choices

**Sports academies**




**Highly skilled prospects in any sport go to the academies post education to go to the next level and become professional whilst being overseen by specialist coaches.**  
**Issues-** High stress with the constant pressure to maintain a high level to avoid being released  
Older friends may be lost due to the incredibly demanding schedule and time to socialise will be limited  
Time in the sport academy could be cut short due to unexpected cuts from the academy due to rising standards and expectations leaving those isolated and stuck on where they could go next

**Military**

A path often chosen for people who have struggled academically throughout school and have the choice of fighting for their country.  
**Issues-** Mental health and psychological strain due to things that may be witnessed during the time working in the military  
High risk of serious injuries that could potentially be life changing.  
Not only difficult for you to live with but your family as well.  
Struggle after time in the military to be reintegrated into society after having the training in skills that a regular citizen would ever come across

**Travelling**



**Visiting different places/ countries around the world during your time off education to have a break or use the free time to see things that would be harder to get to during a heavy work schedule.**  
**Issues-** Without working to earn money funding a long trip around the world will be tough to juggle and prioritise all the aspects; accommodation, food, travel etc  
Constant travelling can lead to a disconnection from home which can make you miss out on important milestones in your family's lives

**Conclusion:**  
As a brief summary, most Post 18 options can make you seem isolated due to change and a new environment which is common amongst all changes in life. There is also a common issue with the cost and accessibility to afford these next steps, particularly University, however, to design a product to help with the financial side may be difficult as students income depends on their hard work rather than a product. The stress faced when moving to a next stage is an interesting area to explore as once a student is past the stressful times they can focus on the work and enjoying it rather than worrying about deadlines or tasks they don't understand

**Exemplar from previous context – your context is 'Supporting the RWS Community'**

## Exploration of context – inclusive design (elderly community)

### Indoors



**Issue:** Opening the windows requires climbing onto the sofa. This is very dangerous for the elderly due to them having worse mobility and balance.

**Solution:** You could design a product that can open the windows from afar at ease.



**Issue:** These cupboards require crouching to access them. This can be dangerous if you have a weaker body, and when you have food cooking on the stove.

**Solution:** Design a product that will make the need to crouch redundant.



**Issue:** This desk is very cluttered, which makes it annoying for an elderly person with impaired vision to find something.

**Solution:** Create an organiser with distinct sections to make finding things easier.



**Issue:** The mess of cables and awkward angle make it difficult for an elderly person use the plug sockets as it is hard to see where they are.

**Solution:** design a product that organises the wires and makes access to the plugs easier.



**Issue:** Parts of the kitchen are too high up to clean, resulting in dust and mold growth.

**Solution:** Create a cleaning tool with a long handle and different attachments.



**Issue:** This table requires some force to move, especially when you are sitting and have tucked it in. This is difficult for the elderly to do if they have compromised mobility.

**Solution:** design a product that serves the same purpose but is much easier to maneuver.



**Issue:** Storing things here requires bending into an awkward angle, worsening back pain.

**Solution:** Create an organiser that allows you to store items without the need to bend down.



**Issue:** Accessing the gas and electricity keys requires crouching and moving large boxes, which can worsen mobility issues.

**Solution:** Design a product which is nimble enough to easily fit through cramped spaces and grab the keys.

### Outdoors



**Issue:** This shed is mostly filled with large unwieldy objects such as boxes and a bicycle. This is quite dangerous for the elderly if they were to have a poor back or arthritis.

**Solution:** Create a product which makes it easier to access frequently-used items.



**Issue:** The grass in the garden is rather uneven in some places. This results in a trip hazard which can make gardening or moving things into the shed dangerous.

**Solution:** level out the ground.



**Issue:** This laundry hanger uses a lot of pegs to hold clothes. These are difficult to use when it is cold or when you have weaker muscles or arthritis.

**Solution:** Design a product which will help hang laundry without the need to apply a lot of force.



**Issue:** This table is often moved around, which requires bending down and applying lots of force. This can be difficult for the elderly due to back pain and weaker muscles.

**Solution:** Design a product that eliminates the need to bend and apply a lot of force to move the table.



**Issue:** Every rubbish day, the bin must be lifted from the garden to the street for collection. This is difficult as the bin is bulky and picking it up requires crouching, which can worsen joint and back pain.

**Solution:** Design something that allows recycling to be disposed of without the need to carry the whole bin.

**Exemplar from previous context – your context is ‘Supporting the RWS Community’**