



EPQ

STAFF

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SUPPORT

We encourage you to seek help whenever you need it, so either come and see us in the Library or B102 or get in touch via email or Teams.

INTRODUCTION

The Extended Project qualification (EPQ) is delivered in Year 12 and starts after the October half term holiday. There is a formal application process that happens in September and places are limited.

The EPQ is based on research and you can study anything of your choice, it might be something related to your academic studies, a hobby, career aspirations or something you would like to find out more about. The project can be to create a dissertation of 5000 words or to create an artefact. The artefact could be a piece of artwork, a scientific experiment, a dramatic performance or to build or manufacture something. Past examples of artefacts have been to build a summer house out of recycled materials, to design and build a drone, to write and illustrate a children's book and have it published.

The project is marked holistically and you are assessed on your ability to plan and manage the project, on your research skills, how you develop your idea and create the final product, along with decision making and using reflection to guide you.

The EPQ is equivalent to half an A-Level and is highly valued by universities. This is because you develop lots of transferrable study skills doing it, so much so that universities often make a reduced offer to students doing the EPQ resulting in a lower grade requirement in other subjects.

WHAT TO BRING FOR YOUR FIRST LESSON

Enthusiasm, commitment and resilience.

You must have a desire to learn about something different and a willingness to learn new and sometimes challenging skills.



CLASSWORK, HOMEWORK AND INDEPENDENT STUDY

You will have a one hour lesson per week and will work with a supervisor who will guide you through the process from initial idea to handing in your completed portfolio.

During the lessons you will get the opportunity to learn higher level study skills that you can then apply to your project.

You will be expected to work on your project out of lesson time and as it is such a big project, potentially taking nearly a year to complete, you will need to be very organized and committed.

As it is an independent study project you will be responsible for your own learning but your supervisor will always be on hand to offer advice and guidance.

RESOURCES

All the resources for skills development are available online via Teams. You have to keep a record of your progress for the exam board. This is available here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/221109-project-progression-record.pdf>

The specification which explains each component and how the project is marked can be found here:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/414382-specification.pdf>

WHAT TO DO TO PREPARE BEFORE STARTING THE COURSE

In preparation we would recommend that you do some research into things that might interest you. The following are good places to look.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/radio4>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses>

<https://scholar.google.com/>

<https://www.ted.com/talks>

You might also try a FutureLearn course specifically aimed at EPQ students. Both of these have been produced by universities who highly recommend the EPQ as preparation to undergraduate studies. They will help you learn about the skills needed to complete the project

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success>

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/research-project>