



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PDR/JDN

12 May 2023

Dear Student, Parent/Carer,

Extended Project Qualification

In year 12 we offer the Extended Project qualification (EPQ) as an optional extra to our A level provision. The EPQ is a highly respected qualification that is equivalent to half an A level and therefore carries UCAS tariff points. It is sought after by universities who make offers to students based on this along with their A level results. Many universities rate it so highly that they will make reduced offers to students who have completed the EPQ. Doing the EPQ will enhance a student's personal statement and give them something unique to talk about at university interviews.

Comments from some universities are below:

- *In some cases admissions tutors may wish to make an alternative offer to applicants, one of which involves successful completion of the Extended Project, eg AAA at A level or AAB plus the Extended Project. (University of Leeds)*
- *We encourage students to undertake an Extended Project to help them develop independent study and research skills valuable for higher education. (University of Cambridge)*
- *Durham University sees the EPQ as a valuable addition to A-Levels or alternative post-16 qualifications. As a research intensive University, Durham supports the skills that the Extended Project Qualification helps to develop and sees them as beneficial to improving transition from year 13 to Higher Education. (AQA)*

Students are required to write a 5000 report or create an artefact. Examples of an artefact include carrying out a scientific experiment or composing a piece of music. Whatever they choose to do is based on independent research and they must show they can plan and manage their project. They will be guided throughout the process by a supervisor who will give them individual support and once back in school, they will be expected to attend a weekly lesson, where they will be taught independent study skills. We work closely with a number of universities including Durham University, University of Sheffield and the University of Leeds. We have an arrangement with the University of Leeds and our students have access to many of their facilities when completing their EPQ.

Accelerated / Fast Track Course

Available to HGS students only, we have decided to offer a fast track course which students will start in the next few weeks and can choose to hand in at Christmas or February 2024, this means that they will need to work on their project over the summer. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain a qualification within the first half of their year 12 studies. This opportunity is open to all students whether they have opted to do the EPQ or not. As there are a limited number of places we anticipate that we will be oversubscribed and would appreciate your support in ensuring that your son/daughter makes an expression of interest as soon as possible and that if their application is successful they are fully committed to the programme.

Applications for a place on the fast-track course should be made by completing the below form. Please note students can only access the form via their school email account. <https://forms.office.com/e/1rFw3pK0Xp>

If you have any queries or questions, please contact Mrs Whitelaw. jwhitelaw@heckgrammar.co.uk

Yours faithfully,



Peter Roberts

Headteacher