

14 November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 12

Extend Project Qualification (EPQ)

As part of our Sixth Form Study Programme, Year 12 students have the opportunity to complete an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ). The aim of the course is for students to independently research and create a project on a topic that they are passionate about and wish to research further. The project may take the form of a dissertation, artefact or performance.

Throughout the process, students will be able to develop their independent research skills, critical thinking and reflective practice - skills which can be applied to a wide number of disciplines. They will be able to use their initiative, learn university style research techniques through wider reading and application and develop communication and presentation skills when they demonstrate their knowledge and findings. They will develop decision and problem-solving skills through developing their product and also analytical skills as they plan and extend their ideas.

The qualification itself is equivalent to half an A Level in UCAS points and we do the Edexcel course, which can greatly help with the university application process, as students are able to demonstrate their independent learning skills. It also allows students to explore a topic that they are interested in and can discuss within their personal statement and at interview.

The course is taught through a series of skill-based seminars run by Miss Harris every two weeks, which are already timetabled for Year 12 as they have been introduced to the study skills programme. Students are also supported by Mrs Faisal, the EPQ Coordinator, who is available in the Sixth Form LRC. Students can speak to her with regards to research queries, as well as for support in referencing and academic writing. Additionally, they meet with a Tutor Assessor, a member of staff chosen by the student, to discuss their subject specific questions and research.

To support your child, please find below the deadlines for the various stages of the EPQ throughout the year:

- **Friday 10 January - Project Proposal Deadline** - all students in Year 12 must complete an EPQ Project Proposal Form. These forms must be signed and submitted by this date.
- **Friday 7 March - 1st Milestone Meeting Deadline** - all EPQ students must have had a meeting with their Tutor Assessor to discuss the initial research for their project by this date, which is invaluable as they will be given guidance and support to help with completing the project.
- **Friday 27 June - 2nd Milestone Meeting Deadline** - all EPQ students must have had a second meeting with their Tutor Assessor to discuss their almost finished project by this date. Advice will be given on how to refine their project over the summer.
- **Wednesday 24 September - Final Hand in Deadline** - the project needs to be completed and handed in to Mrs Faisal in the Sixth Form LRC.
- **Beginning of November - Presentations** - after school, all students will deliver a short presentation on their EPQ to their Tutor Assessor and one other staff member. Guests are welcome to attend.

Further meetings with their Tutor Assessors, Miss Harris and Mrs Faisal can be arranged throughout the year.

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The EPQ is not compulsory and students who wish to discontinue will be given an opportunity to do another wider curriculum piece of work, that will be discussed with them in due course. However, we hope that many of our students will take up this opportunity to develop their independent learning skills and complete a qualification that can support them in the future.

Further guidance and information can be found on the Parmiter's EPQ website (<https://sites.google.com/parmiters.herts.sch.uk/epq/home>). If you have any further questions, please contact Miss Harris (s.harris@parmiters.herts.sch.uk).

Yours sincerely



Miss S Harris
Teacher in Charge of EPQ