

## What is the EPQ?

The EPQ is a research-based project that allows you to explore a topic of your own interest that extends beyond the scope of your A Level studies. It is not only a chance for you to do something different, but an opportunity to use your Enrichment sessions on Wednesday afternoons to prepare yourself for the more independent set-up of university research.

Over the course of a year, beginning in Year 12, you collaborate with a supervisor to come up with an independent research project on an area of personal interest. In the past we've had students write plays, design picture books, re-score sections of films, and write essays on topics as diverse as nuclear fusion, French politics, and the environmental impacts of fast fashion.

## What do I do?

The EPQ is a *process-based* qualification. While you are working to create a piece of work – either a 5000-word report or an artefact (accompanied by a report of approximately 1000 words) – only 40% of the marks available for the qualification come from the piece of work you produce at the end. Marks are available for:

- Conducting a wide range of independent research on your chosen topic
- Using the research you've done to develop and alter your project sensibly
- Managing your project in a sensible way
- Responding proactively and thoughtfully to your supervisor's feedback
- Presenting your research in an engaging and enthusiastic manner

Supervisors will look for evidence for this in our interactions with you and in the evidence you provide on Project Q, our online system for managing the EPQ process.

## What are the benefits?

Students value the EPQ in its own right for three main reasons:

- 1) It offers a chance for you to explore your deepest interests in much greater detail than your A Level subjects can provide
- 2) Although the qualification requires a lot of hard work, the sense of achievement at the end of it is notable – you've created something from nothing!
- 3) It shows you what the self-directed study of university will be like

Universities are also starting to make lower offers to students who achieve highly on the EPQ.