

EPQ Curriculum Overview

Curriculum intent

Students:

- Develop the skills required to conduct academic research
- Learn to manage their own time to meet personal deadlines throughout the project
- Understand the rules of research, including ethics, referencing and assessing the validity/reliability of a wide range of sources and essay writing
- Are given the opportunity to research an area of interest to them
- Develop skills in decision making and problem solving throughout the management of the project

Curriculum Implementation

Every student chooses a topic of interest, this goes through a process of approval with their supervisor and then the centre coordinator. Students can choose 1 of 2 options in the EPQ, alongside this choice they complete a full log of their journey (the Production Log), a presentation, timeline and literature review. The two final options are below:

1. Complete a 5000 word essay on their chosen topic
2. Complete an artefact (EG – dance/drama piece) on their topic and a 3000 word essay

In lessons students have 12 taught sessions based on the skills required for research and are expected to independently study in their other lessons. Students regularly meet 1:1 to discuss their progress with their supervisor during lesson time.

The EPQ is marked under 4 assessment objectives:

AO1 – Manage (20%)

AO2 – Use Resources (20%)

AO3 – Develop & Realise (20 marks)

AO4 – Review (20%)

This is a 1-year course that requires no prior knowledge.

Curriculum impact

- Gives students the skillset required to move on to academic reading and writing at University level
- Develops their academic writing skills which is useful for the other A level subjects they study
- Students are able to get an A* at AS Level
- EPQ grades can influence universities to lower offers
- Students can study a subject of interest that they cannot study for A Level to allow them to access a wider range of courses at university

The EPQ gives students an excellent opportunity to learn how to manage their own time and independently research. Alongside this, they have the opportunity to present their research to others which allows them to develop skills that will be useful for a wide range of post-18 options.