

	<b><u>EPQ (Extended Project Qualification)</u></b>	
	<b>Qualification Level</b>	Level 3 (equivalent to half an A level)
	<b>Exam Board/ Syllabus</b>	Edexcel
	<b>Contact(s)</b>	Mr John / Mr Catley

### **Why Study This Course?**

If you choose EPQ, you will carry out an independent research project on a topic of your own choosing. This can be a science investigation, a dissertation or a creative project. It is an opportunity to follow a specific interest and study content outside of and beyond the A level syllabus. The research skills you develop during the course are highly valued by universities and employers. The EPQ gives you useful UCAS points to increase your total when applying to university, and some of the most competitive universities will lower their entry requirements if you have a good grade in your EPQ. If you have an interview, you're likely to be able to really impress people by talking about your EPQ.

### **Course Content**

Essentially, it's entirely up to you! The unique thing about the EPQ is that your choice of topic and approach will dictate the content of the course. You will have a weekly group lesson in which you learn all the necessary research and writing skills to carry out your project, plus a number of 1-2-1 meetings with a member of staff acting as your supervisor who will be allocated to you according to your topic. They will provide subject-specific guidance at key stages of your project. Depending on the nature of your project, you will produce an extended dissertation or investigation of around 6,000 words or a performance or an artefact plus a commentary of around 3,000 words.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Activities</b>
1	Outline of the project and requirements of the specific sections. Thinking skills, research skills, argument structure, case-studies of stimulus material. Students research possible topic areas and produce a first draft of the project proposal form. Tutor-assessors are appointed to students once topic areas have been selected.
<b>Oct Half term</b>	
2	Refining project proposals. Negotiation of project title with tutor-assessors. Introduction of the weekly reflection log. Students make their first entries. Research leading up to production of a first-draft of the literature review for review and feedback by tutor-assessor. Teaching of research methods (referencing, source evaluation etc) continues.
<b>Christmas</b>	
3	Work on the first-draft of the development and realisation section of the project. Teaching of developmental techniques (argument / counter-argument, data analysis, performance or creative techniques) continues. Production of abstract, introduction, conclusions and a full evaluation of the project process. Milestone 1: Submission of full draft of project to tutor-assessor for review and feedback.
<b>Feb Half term</b>	
4	Editing and re-drafting following feedback from tutor-assessor. Preparation and rehearsal for presentation
<b>Easter</b>	
5	Milestone 2: Students submit completed projects for internal assessment and moderation. Final grades are confirmed on Results Day in August.

### **Higher/Further Education & Career Links**

In addition to the advantages when applying for university mentioned above in 'Why study this course?', doing an EPQ will give you numerous transferable skills that are highly valued by employers and universities. These include research skills, project management, self-reflection, presentation skills and critical thinking.