**Curriculum Intent**

**Aim**

The main aim of the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is to establish and develop skills that enhance student performance across all of their academic and technical qualifications, as well as preparing the students for the next stage of their educational career, either at university or an apprenticeship.

Key benefits of EPQ:

* Develop and improve their independent research and study skills
* Develop, improve and apply decision making and problem solving skills
* Extend their planning, research, critical thinking, analysis, evaluation and presentation skills
* Develop and apply skills creatively, demonstrating initiative and enterprise
* Use their learning experiences to support their aspirations for further study and/or career development
* Transfer the skills developed as part of the project to their other areas of study

Students apply these learned skills to a project that is unique. Students are provided with two hours of teacher, (project supervisor), guided study each week, and are required to work autonomously for a minimum of one hour per week. The two hours of teacher guided study include the teaching of research methods, referencing, planning and presentation skills. However, there is a requirement for the student to work independently to complete all aspects of the Extended Project Qualification.

EPQ provides students with the opportunity to delve into an area of genuine interest. There are clear guidelines regarding the appropriateness of each research topic title. Students can write an extended essay or make/produce an artefact. Previous students have discussed whether there is “Life on Mars” as an extended essay. Others students have made a drone and electric guitar.

EPQ is unlikely to form part of a formal offer to University, or an Apprenticeship. However, it differentiates students and provides a fantastic focal point for interviews as well as showing a willingness to accept an intellectual challenge. It is generally accepted that the completion of EPQ is highly regarded by all universities (including the Russell Group of Universities).

**The Learning Journey**

**The programme of Study**

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is equivalent to half an A’ Level. The exam board is AQA.

EPQ involves choosing a topic, carrying out research, then either creating a 5,000-word report or producing an artefact accompanied by a 1,000-word report. Additionally, students must deliver a 10-15-minute presentation to an audience of non-specialist about their projects and learning journey to produce it.

There are three elements to the EPQ:

1. The Production and Process Log
2. The essay (5,00-words) or the artefact
3. The presentation with Q&A from the audience

**Core Skills Developed**

* Time management skills
* Research skills and evaluation of sources
* Ethical principles of research
* Health safety and risk assessment related to the research project or artefact production
* Report writing
* Referencing and bibliography creation
* How to avoid plagiarism
* Presentation skills
* Reflection and evaluation

**Delivery model**

Selected at the start of Year 12 with completion by July of Year. Submitted to the examination board in either November or April of Year 13. Some students are provided with the option of completing small final aspects of their projects in the autumn term of Year 13. Some students complete the learning process of EP without submitting a project to the exam board for assessment.

Students are provided with two curriculum timetabled lesson with a teacher each week. Students complete an average of one hour of autonomous study each week over the course of Year 12.