

## THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

The EPQ is an opportunity to independently research a topic of your choice and produce an extended piece of work that presents your findings. Though most EPQs will consist of a 5000-word dissertation style essay, you can produce a musical/ dramatic composition, or even build an artifact.

The EPQ is a great opportunity to experience university style study and expand your knowledge in an area of interest. It's also a great way to demonstrate that you're someone who's really up for carrying out your own independent research - which, at the end of the day, is what university study is all about.

Students are able to propose their own project title, as long as it meets certain criteria. They can research a topic linked to one of their subjects (as long as there is not too much overlap with the syllabus) or something completely unrelated to their A levels.

The EPQ is taken as an optional additional qualification. It is open to everyone, however, it is important that students are able to manage the extra workload and for it to not impact on their A level subjects. Some students see it as a way of developing their skills, for others, because they have real interest in a particular subject and want to 'delve deeper', others have a real interest in something outside their A level subjects.

## LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities to enhance leadership skills. Students are able to apply to be the Head Girl or Boy, Deputy to the Head Girl/Boy, to become The Student Chaplain or a Prefect.

In addition, students are invited to take part in our Paired Reading Scheme, Subject Mentoring, Peer Mentoring, to help coach sports to younger students and to work towards Sports Leadership qualifications and to help run clubs and societies such as Ukulele Club, Drama Club, History Society, Amnesty International, taking part in Debating and Public Speaking Competitions...and many, many more.

## THE SPEAKERS' PROGRAMME & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT CURRICULUM

Once a fortnight, we meet collectively as a Sixth Form to hear from a range of external speakers. The aim of the Speakers' Programme is to allow students to engage with topics that they might not ordinarily come into contact with as part of their subject curriculum.

Recent speakers have been from:

- Accumulate - The Art School for the Homeless
- Médecins Sans Frontières
- National Apprenticeship Service
- Professor Tom Shakespeare, Professor of Disability Research
- The Resolution Foundation think tank
- The Jo Cox Foundation
- The Cardinal Hume Centre
- The Anthony Nolan Trust
- Wings of Hope Charity
- PUSH (university advice and guidance)
- Dominic Grieve - Former Attorney General
- Sustainability Consultants from Hoare Lea
- Careers talks - Metropolitan Police and Civil Service Routes
- Commission for Countering Extremism
- Accenture - Degree Apprenticeships
- NHS - Talking Therapies

## HEADTEACHER

Susanne Staab