**Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**

**Entry Requirements:** None

**Exam board:** OCR **Level of Qualification:** Level 3

**Teaching time:** One hour per week **Year of Study:** 12

**What is EPQ?**

EPQ is an extra qualification, equivalent to half an A level and worth UCAs points. EPQ involves choosing your own topic and is intended to take students beyond their A level studies, and consequently topics chosen for investigation should not be ones which are already being studied as part of conventional A level courses.

The EPQ is highly valued by university admissions staff, who regard it as an excellent preparation for study at university.

**Who is this course for?**

The enrichment course is available to all students who are taking 3 A levels and runs alongside their A level studies. It is suitable for students who are able to work independently, manage their time effectively and manage their workload to set deadlines.

**Course Content**

The basic principle underlying EPQ are firstly that the focus of a project should be chosen by the students; secondly, that it is the responsibility of the student to undertake the research needed to complete the project; and thirdly, that the students should complete a logbook recording the process by which the project was developed.

The student essentially defines the way they want to research their topic, although a member of the teaching staff will guide each student. The taught elements of the course include:

* Planning
* Research skills
* Quality of evidence
* Plagiarism
* Referencing
* Presentation skills

The project culminates in the completion of the report (together with any artefact), in which research finds are analysed, evaluated and fully referenced. The final part of the course involved a brief presentation of the project to a small group of peers.

**What does the course lead to?**

EPQ enhances the study skills of students and provides students with the experience of independent learning which is characteristic of university study. Gaining the EPQ qualification therefore is not only useful for the personal development of students, but also because it is highly valued by universities as evidence of ability of students to engage in research, independent learning, and extended writing to explore an issue in some depth. In this way, EPQ can help students gain a competitive edge when applying to university.