



# THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: MRS COLLINGE  
SPECIFICATION: EDEXCEL EPQ  
QUALIFICATION: EPQ (EQUIVALENT TO HALF AN A-LEVEL)

The Edexcel Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an opportunity to complement your A-Levels by studying any subject or topic of your choosing and gain a recognised qualification (equivalent to half an A-Level).

Over five terms you work towards the completion of a final product that could be a dissertation, an investigation, a performance or an artefact. The course is extremely popular with self-motivated students.

Our unique approach to delivering the EPQ is extremely effective at developing skills that are highly valued by universities and future employers, such as research, evaluation and presentation.



## EPQ STUDENTS ARE BETTER PREPARED FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

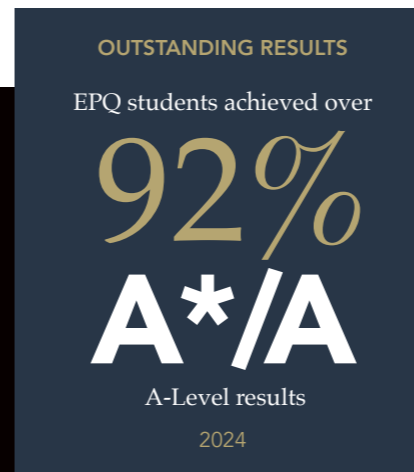
Research conducted by Cambridge University Press found that EPQ students were better prepared for higher education, "Taking the EPQ was associated with a higher likelihood of progressing to higher education, a lower likelihood of dropping out of higher education, and a higher probability of achieving a first (or at least an upper second) in their degree."

### WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN LOWER SIXTH

The purpose of the EPQ is not to deliver a particular curriculum but to develop mature, independent learners who possess a range of thinking and study skills. Our experienced team of teaching staff offer expertise from a broad range of disciplines, and students are encouraged to collaborate with specialists in their chosen subject area from both inside and outside the school community.

The course starts in the Lower Sixth as follows:

- Developing professional relationships with experts in the field
- Formulating a focused title or project brief
- Identifying project objectives and rationale
- Developing a clear project plan
- Introduction to primary and secondary sources, including peer-reviewed journals
- Assessing the credibility of source material (dissertation projects only)
- Formatting a project
- Academic referencing of sources and composing a bibliography
- Developing and demonstrating skills in analysis and synthesis



The EPQ provides an opportunity for self-motivated learners to go beyond the confines of the A-Level curriculum and be independent, confident learners who develop projects tailored to their personal interests and passions. There are opportunities to visit businesses and universities in order to develop the range in resources and obtain further feedback from specialists in the field.

*The initial reason I chose to conduct a dissertation project was to improve skills that would be vital for university such as the ability to read challenging journals and learning to study independently.*

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It results in a qualification that is highly regarded by universities and represents half an A-Level.



### WHAT YOU WILL STUDY IN UPPER SIXTH

- Writing a discussion section that includes arguments and counter-arguments (dissertation projects only)
- Tutorials where staff offer guidance on a one-to-one basis
- Evaluating your work
- Gaining experience in peer and self assessment
- Developing oral and visual presentation skills
- Rehearsing presentations in front of peers

### WHAT IS THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION USEFUL FOR?

Russell Group universities place great value on the EPQ, with the University of Cambridge stating that they encourage applicants to take it as 'it will help to develop independent study and research skills, which are valuable for higher education.'

(University of Cambridge, September 2024)

In addition to the EPQ being worth up to 28 UCAS points (half an A Level), a significant number of universities will also lower required A Level grades for a course when an applicant achieves a high grade in their EPQ.

(BBC report, August 2015).