



13th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

HPQ Introduction

My name is Lu Reynolds and I teach the HPQ or Higher Project Qualification that your child is currently undertaking.

As the Year 10 PCE is approaching and, given the limited time available during this event, I thought it would be appropriate to clarify what HPQ is and what this means for the students completing it. HPQ is a level 2 qualification and so is the equivalent of a GCSE with the exception that it is graded from A*- C rather than 1-9. This is very much a student-led piece of work as they have to decide on the topic, create a good title and invest time to researching, all of which helps the student to develop independent learning skills. It is a new type of challenge for many, but we know that it helps build the sort of independence that is particularly useful in many A Level and BTEC subjects.

The work submitted will be:

1. A completed logbook which provides evidence of the project stages and its development.
2. A 2000 word report on the students chosen topic that they have researched and planned.
3. A presentation to a non-specialist audience that reflects on the learners HPQ journey.

The students' independent work is underpinned by a series of taught sessions which show them the skills they need to produce a successful Project. These include deciding on a good title, being critical about the sources they find (looking for vested interest, reliability etc), using libraries effectively, organising themselves, critical reading and note taking, analysing what they find and reconciling differing points of view, referencing what they write about and creating a bibliography.

As we only have one timetabled hour a fortnight the students must do the majority of the work at home as independent learning.

The HPQ is a challenging qualification, but it is rewarding, particularly when students have reached the end of the process and realise what they have achieved. If you require any more information or if you have any general enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me on reynolds@queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Yours faithfully

Miss L Reynolds

Teacher of HPQ and EPQ