

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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14th March 2023

Dear Parents/Carer of Year 12

Year 12 EPQ

As the Year 12 PCE is approaching and given the limited time for each appointment, we wanted to take this opportunity to explain what the EPQ is, why we think it is useful and what your child will be completing for assessment.

The EPQ is an independent project 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.

Much of the time will be spent by students working independently and this requires self-discipline and dedication to the chosen project. We have large numbers of students who complete projects on all sorts of fascinating topics each year to a high standard, so the hard work is worth it! Results are graded A* to E like A levels and are worth half the A level points tariff - which is very useful for many university offers. Students value the new subject knowledge, skills and achievement and so do universities and employers. Our students are honest enough to acknowledge that the independence can be challenging along the way - but that they learn so much from it. 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. It is a new type of challenge for many, but we know that it helps develop the sort of transferable skills that are particularly useful in both Higher Education and in the working environment.

The work submitted will be:

1. A completed logbook which provides evidence of the project stages and its development.
2. A 5000 word report on the students chosen topic that they have researched and planned, or an artefact which is something they can create like a piece of art, a story, a song, a model plane, but this also needs to be researched and planned.
3. A presentation to a non-specialist audience that reflects on the learners EPQ journey.

In Year 12 the students have 4 timetabled hours a fortnight, but they are still expected to carry out additional work at home, particularly as they move into Year 13.

The EPQ 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

Centre Co-ordinator for the HPQ and EPQ