



## EPQ

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The ability to work independently and to take responsibility for one's own learning is highly valued by both future employers and by universities. A 'stretch and challenge' element of the Sixth Form at St Martin's School is available for all students who wish to undertake an individual research project: The Extended Project Qualification [EPQ].

The EPQ is a piece of personal research that requires students to plan, prepare, complete and present a project on a topic or theme of their own choosing but separate to their other A-level examination work. Students will be assigned a staff mentor to guide, support and assess their work, which will be completed between January in Year 12 and December in Year 13. The project is valued as half an A-level but is of A-level standard and will be graded A\* - E for a successful project.

Whilst of educational value in itself, the undertaking of the project will give students a unique experience to refer to in job and university applications and to discuss at interview. Many universities are welcoming the development of the EPQ and are adjusting their entry requirements accordingly. The successful completion of the project will help universities and employers differentiate between equally strong applicants and give an advantage in the competition for university places and jobs.

The EPQ is a research project of 5000 words (a student can decide instead to produce an artefact, or organise an event if they wish and while this reduces the word count to a minimum of 1000 words it must also be accompanied by a process log). Students must also present the findings of their work to an audience of their peers. Therefore, the project is an opportunity to undertake a piece of extensive research, demonstrate written skills, planning and organisational skills, self-motivation and presentation skills.

Students will meet with their mentor in Year 12 to allow them time to consider and agree on a suitable topic and for the planning process to begin. The whole process is completed and submitted before any A-level examinations. Many students will choose to do most of the work after the PPEs at the end of Year 12 and will continue through the summer.

Presentations will take place following the completion of the work and results will be published alongside A-level results.

Last year, many students found their offer from university was altered in their favour if they had completed a relevant EPQ.

*Be The Best You Can Be*