

EPQ

Intent

Curriculum design is specifically targeted to help students move from A Level study through to being capable of independent learning, research skills, report writing and presentation skills sufficient to starting Higher Education.

Focus for learning is on project management skills, learning how to avoid plagiarising other academic work, developing an idea, using primary and secondary data effectively, learning aspects of report writing such as literature reviews, abstracts, glossaries, bibliographies.

They need to learn how to critically review the research data collected and analyse the material rather than being descriptive. They need to learn how to research materials online and in a university library. They also will learn how to reflect on their own performance and evaluate their success and failures to identify their learning from the whole project. They will begin to become a specialist in their particular chosen topic and be able to build on this in their future study.

Implementation

Curriculum delivery is consistent and organised.

Booklet: At the launch of the course students receive a booklet including Project information, previous EPQ titles, AQA assessment objectives, useful resources, UCAS information, typical structure of reports and a programme of study (including key deadlines)

Taught Sessions: Student receive a number of taught sessions on essential skills needed such as research skills (e.g. plagiarism, primary and secondary data), writing the EPQ, presentation skills, three-week online Future Learn course, external speakers, external trip to UWE library)

Project management support: Each student is allocated a supervisor who is met with every week to discuss progress and fulfil the required formal meetings. Students are timetabled two hours each week to work on their Project and have access to their supervisor.

Online Project Management tool: The College has purchased a well-respected online tool to help the students manage their paperwork and research notes

Impact

Attainment – to ensure that target grades are achieved by all students and for supervisors to intervene early if students are missing deadlines or quality checks

Skills developed over time – Skills introduced to students will give them confidence and ability to step up to the demands of further study.

Destinations & attributes – students are able to evaluate their own learning journey and implement changes to their research methods as they progress through their academic, professional and vocational careers