Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Exam Board: AQA

Students in year 12 have the opportunity to undertake a self-directed research project on a topic of their choosing under the guidance of a member of staff acting as their mentor or supervisor.
Over the course of the project, students must produce a dissertation, report, artefact, performance or design. Additionally, they must make a presentation on their area of research. As such, the EPQ is excellent for developing independent research and study skills that are vital to undergraduate learning.

Rather than being outcome-based, the assessment is process-orientated, making this a qualification in project management rather than in a specific project area. The transferable skills gained are valued by university
admissions tutors, and the EPQ is recognised by Oxbridge and Russell Group universities as a valid addition to A-Level studies Assessment is made according to the following
criteria:

- Management and planning
- Use of resources
- Development and realisation
- Review and reflection (includes the assessed presentation)

While the end product must be work of at least A Level standard, the assessment criteria make it clear that the primary focus is on the continuous process of doing the project itself. Students may undertake projects as part of small groups, but they must have well defined and separate roles within each group. Each Extended Project student is expected to see their supervisor at least once per week. Fortnightly classes with the rest of the cohort allow development of important transferable skills including project management
techniques, presentation skills and strategies for effective research.
The project is assessed internally in the same way as traditional coursework. It is then submitted to the examination board for moderation and allocation of final grades.

The EPQ is an ideal 4th choice in addition to A Levels. All Year 12 students are encouraged to complete the EPQ a sit encourages focus and builds key independent skills.