



Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

Mr H Orr
Head of Religious Studies/Sociology
henry.orr@ellesmere.com

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Dear Parents,

The College is introducing the AQA Extended Project Qualification for the first time to the present Lower Sixth. The students were introduced to this on PSHE day on June 16th and advised to go away and discuss with parents and tutors whether this would be something they might undertake, the following information is provided to assist parents in that discussion.

The qualification is separate from their A Levels and is worth up to 70 UCAS points. It involves the students choosing an area of interest that they have, perhaps outside the classroom or beyond their A Level syllabuses and producing a project.

To use an example from another school, one pupil chose to produce a project entitled 'Size Zero and the Fashion Industry'. This pupil was studying Business Studies, Art and Media Studies and was able to combine her interest to produce this project.

Another pupil produced a book to help young children to learn to read. Another, rather topically, investigated the reason behind England's failure to win penalty shoot-outs!

Other than the fact that it can earn UCAS points, the project will greatly help students when it comes to writing their personal statements for university application. Students tend to explain why they chose their A Levels. A pupil who has undertaken an Extended Project Qualification will be able to do that more easily. It would be particularly advantageous for a pupil opting for a course that they had not studied at A Level, for example Law or Criminology. The students can show that they have a real desire to do that course if they are already doing a project that might cover those issues. Undertaking the qualification also demonstrates independent learning, time-management, creativity and resourcefulness. All of those are highly valued by universities.

The Qualification is internally assessed and would need to be finished by the beginning of November. The result would be known by January. The timing is useful as it would coincide with students completing UCAS forms and it would not disrupt their modular exams.

Ellesmere College, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 9AB

Tel: 01691 622321 Fax: 01691 623286

www.ellesmere.com

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This qualification will not suit everyone. Most universities making points offers accept it and others asking for grades, eg ABB, drop a grade if a pupil successfully completes a project, eg BBB. However, the students would need to check before beginning whether their university choices accept the qualification.

The project can be completed in different ways. The students could write 5000 words or 2000 words and produce a poster set, or a power point or actually make something, like a costume. There are many options. On completion students make a presentation to an audience, perhaps made up of governors, teachers and local dignitaries. Each pupil will be supervised during the process and will need to evaluate their work.

If I can offer any more guidance, please feel free to contact me at the College.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. B. Orr". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large 'O' and 'r'.