



Ellesmere

A 7 – 18 Coeducational School

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Dear Parents,

In the induction week the Lower Sixth were introduced to the Extended Project Qualification, EPQ. Lesson time has been allocated to the Lower Sixth to work with a supervisor as they start their projects. These lessons will start in week 3.

There are many benefits for the pupils who complete this project. First, it is awarded UCAS points, up to 28, which might be important for some pupils when applying to University next year. Secondly, some Universities will now lower offers to pupils who achieve a certain level in the EPQ. More importantly in a way, doing an EPQ requires independent study, research skills, planning skills and time management skills that are highly regarded by Universities and employers. Also, as most 'A' Levels do not have examinations till the end of the Upper Sixth year, having a project with a grade to put on their UCAS application is now the only way to provide evidence of achievement in the Sixth Form. Finally, when writing personal statements for Universities their project will be totally unique to them and will allow them to prove they have a genuine interest in a subject.

Most pupils take three 'A' Levels so it now makes perfect sense to undertake a project. Each candidate will be given a supervisor to work closely with them. An important part of the process is keeping a log book of decision making skills. Candidates can choose to do a project on anything that interests them (as long as it does not exactly match the syllabus of one of their 'A' Levels). We have had candidates doing projects on art, advertising, cricket, Japanese media, the Incas, the Spanish civil war, the police, the art of Churchill and Hitler, an educational board game and the Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath.

Now is an excellent opportunity for you and your son or daughter to think about possible projects. We will aim to complete the projects by the end of the Lent term 2019, allowing plenty of time both to complete the project and to focus on any external exams in May.

Kind Regards,

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A Woodard School

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