

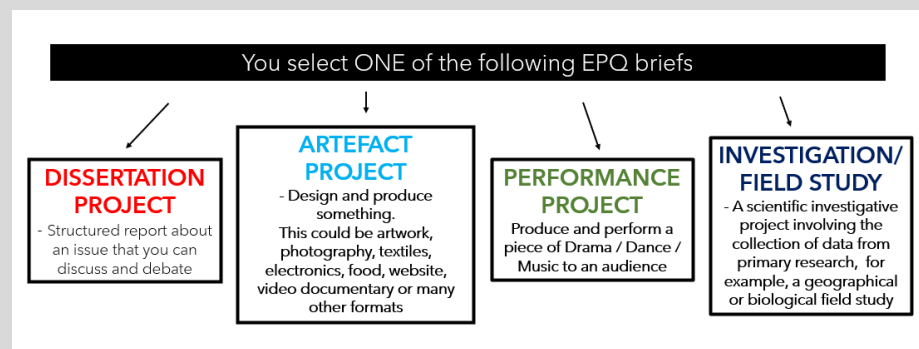
# Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) – Edexcel Pearson

**Subject Leader:** Mr T Westwood

**Contact email address:** [t.westwood@cns-school.org](mailto:t.westwood@cns-school.org)

This course covers the following key topics:

The Extended Project (EPQ) is a **Level 3 stand-alone qualification equivalent to half an A Level**. The EPQ provides an opportunity to **independently** conduct an in-depth research project into a subject you are passionate about. You will study this alongside your A Levels across Yr12 and Yr13.



The EPQ helps in the development of many key skills such as independent learning, research, critical thinking and academic writing, which are valued by both employers and universities.

**We love teaching this course because:**

- The variety of topics chosen is wonderful!
- It is great to see students having some independence about their work
- It is a real challenge that goes beyond the standard curriculum
- We can see students grow in their skills and confidence

**Our students say:**

*"Deciding to take an EPQ alongside my other A Level studies was one of the best choices I made during my time at sixth form. Besides being complementary to my chosen subjects, the skills I developed in research, reading, critical evaluation and academic writing have successfully set me up as an undergraduate student. In addition, the opportunity for me to spend time independently researching a topic that I found fascinating allowed for me to gain autonomy in my own study skills, which not only helped in the writing of my final EPQ, but also my research and revision into my other A Level subjects. Without a doubt I would recommend taking an EPQ to all students, no matter what your plans are for the future; the skills developed help propel your academic work and are applicable to all future pathways"*

**Lucy Squires**

*Achieved A\* in 2024 with her EPQ dissertation on Volcanoes  
Now studying at the University of Sheffield*



City of Norwich School Sixth Form  
An Ormiston Academy – Excellence in all

**Recommended Reading:**

Any that is related to the chosen topic!

Academic articles from Universities can be accessed through Google Scholar or JSTOR

Background research on the internet, or even some good old-fashioned books!



Google Scholar



**What do universities think of the EPQ?**

Universities have welcomed the EPQ as an excellent qualification that develops essential skills for higher education, such as independent study, high level research skills, problem solving, academic writing and critical thinking.

*"We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education."*

Cambridge University

Challenge Curiosity  
Independence

**What future pathways are open to me if I study EPQ?**

Combined with your other A levels, the EPQ looks good on a university application form. It also promotes skills that are very useful in employment – time management, writing skills, presentation skills etc