

Why Study an EPQ at Tarpорley Sixth Form?

Why we love teaching EPQ:

The work that students produce for this qualification just never fails to astound us! An EPQ involves: a detailed production log, a 5000 word report and a presentation where students summarise what they have learned. They have to plan / research / reference / evaluate / showcase their written and verbal skills. An EPQ equates to half an A Level and also carries UCAS points. It is the perfect preparation for university.



- Mrs McMillan
- BA HONS
- Studied English Studies at University of Nottingham
- Director of Sixth Form



Mr T Gibbons
BA (Hons) History,
University of Central
Lancashire
MA Educational
Practice, Chester
University

Sixth Form Student
Development Lead



- Mr Brownley
- BA HONS
- Studied Philosophy at University of Reading
- Deputy Director of Sixth Form

Both members of staff have received additional AQA training this year, meaning their knowledge of the Assessment Objectives and Specification is second to none. Russell Group Universities post many resources to assist Sixth Formers (on our VLE) with this additional, independent study – this emphasises the value they place on the qualification.

Previous EPQ titles:

- Should 5G be permitted - based on evidence of the damage it can cause to birds?
- How far is it possible to create non-partisan voting districts in the 21st Century?
- What are the implications of CRISPR Cas9 on agriculture and medicine in society?
- Current understanding of the pathogenesis and risk factors of Alzheimer's disease and their impact on current and future disease management
- How far does Francisco de Goya's painting "The Third of May" portray the reasons for the French defeat in the Peninsular War?
- How has e-commerce had an impact on emerging companies such as P2P Mailing?
- How does the MAOA gene influence aggressive behaviour, and what is its impact in criminal convictions and sentencing?
- How does dance affect the mental and physical health of adolescents?
- How does veganism affect the UK economy?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages of the NHS being privatised?
- The gulf between theory and practice: why does international law sometimes fail to offer effective protection to refugees?
- What are the economic impacts of climate change on insurance markets?"
- What are the justifications for osteopathy not being widely available on the NHS?
- An investigation into the financial, ethical and clinical arguments for and against restrictions on surgery for patients who smoke.
- Evaluate the ways that surface tension affects our everyday lives and why it matters.
- To what extent has an emerging democracy in Russia created a fairer society?
- How is social media used to entice women into radical, extremist groups?

Where could an EPQ take me?

"Doing an EPQ was so useful for me because the format of reading sources and writing an essay with footnotes and a bibliography is exactly the same as how I now write essays at university - it's a great head start in learning how you are going to be working in further education, especially for the humanities. The opportunity to learn something outside of A level courses makes it really enjoyable to do and it could be a way for you to research something you might not get to study again, or alternatively to explore an interest that you might want to go on and study at university. It is also great fun getting to talk about an area you are passionate about to other people in the end presentation! I definitely think having done an EPQ was beneficial in terms of getting in to my first choice university; it shows independence in learning which is a major part of university, and is another string to your bow."

MEGAN: Current Cambridge Undergraduate

Real world skills: Time management. Independent planning. Self-discipline. Research skills. Harvard Referencing system. Report writing. Presentation skills. Rigour. Diligence. Self-Motivation.

Building Undergraduate Skills

"For me, completing an EPQ was one of the most beneficial things I did during my time in sixth form, as I gained a wide variety of skills that have been invaluable in many other aspects of my studies and on my university course already. Having the opportunity to explore a topic of your choice separate from your A level subjects and become an expert in that field, enables you to broaden your academic research and writing skills, as well as learning how to reference and deliver a formal presentation. I also received a reduced offer from the University of Sheffield by doing an EPQ and I know it has advantaged some people when going through clearing on results day."

Katy: Studying Medicine at Newcastle University

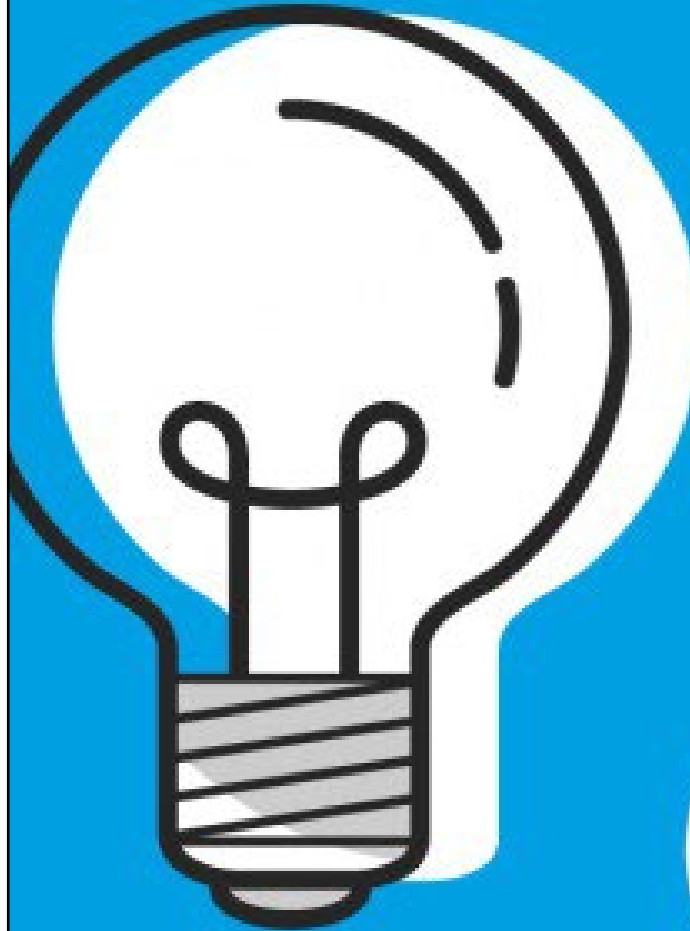
"Whether you are attending University or not the EPQ is a great way to expand your skill set in a subject you are truly interested in which you may have never been taught about before. I found it a lot more interesting than the average school essay as you had the freedom to explore whatever you wanted and in my case my EPQ actually helped me clarify what I wanted to study at University. It also allowed me to have a head start than most people as I was able to practice my referencing, research and writing style— skills you need from the get-go in first year."

Erin - Political Science and Philosophy Student at Birmingham University

Doing an EPQ meant that I was able to learn critical elements about the workings of the NHS, the four pillars and the Hippocratic oath, medical and philosophical ethics and also explore a very niche and contentious issue – whether surgery should be restricted due to patients being obese.

My three A Levels were not essay-based subjects so the EPQ meant I had to produce a 5000 word report – edit / proof-read / amend and reflect which was immensely useful. The dissertation-type skills will be beneficial and the research skills I have developed will be so useful at university. I also found my EPQ topic immensely advantageous when doing my Medicine Interviews and when completing the 'Situational Judgement' section of my UCAT. I would advise that students do this qualification – but manage your time well and choose a topic that you are passionate about. It is a challenge managing it alongside A Levels but it is worth the effort. Good luck!

Where could an EPQ take me?



Abi is currently studying Medicine at Cardiff university.