Learning Aims and Curriculum Intent:

Content - Each student in Year 12 completes an independent research project on any topic of their choosing. The project is comprised of 3 elements: the outcome, the production log, and the presentation. The project outcome may take the form of an extended academic essay (5000 words) or a performance/ artefact accompanied by a research-based written report. The production log documents the processes of planning, researching, decision making and reviewing throughout the project journey. The presentation is delivered at the end of the process and students present their research findings and personal reflections on their project development and implementation. Students have one lesson a week with a project supervisor who teaches the skills needed for a successful project and who provides individual feedback and support to students throughout the process.

The EPQ allows students to extend their learning beyond the A-level syllabus and prepare for university study.

Skills - All students complete a course of taught skills, with lessons covering: assessing the feasibility of project ideas, developing titles and aims, academic research methods (including the selection and evaluation of reliable academic sources, how to use libraries and academic databases, the value of primary research, the difference between qualitative and quantitative data), time management strategies, effective note-taking, academic referencing, compiling a bibliography, synthesising research, critically analysing research, academic essay writing (structure and style), editing and reviewing one's work, presentation skills and self-evaluation.

Term	Content, Key Questions and Knowledge	Skills	Assessment

Michaelmas	• **What is the EPQ?**
	  o What is its value? How is it assessed? What different types of project outcome can be developed?
	
	• **What makes a successful EPQ?**
	  o What topics have potential for an academic research project? What common mistakes can be avoided?
	  o What are the features of a strong EPQ title? How should appropriate project aims be developed?
	  o What is the production log? What are the features of an excellent production log?
	
	• **How should the EPQ be researched?**
	  o What is the difference between primary and secondary research? What is the value of each? What ethical and safety concerns needs to be addressed if carrying out primary research?
	  o What types of source can be used for the EPQ?
	  o How should the reliability of sources be evaluated? What is peer review?
	  o How can I make good use of the School Library and online subscriptions e.g., JStor?
	
	• **What is effective time-management?**
	  o Why is effective time-management important? What are the threats to effective time-management of the EPQ? How can these be avoided?
	  o What time-management strategies will work best for my project? E.g., what is a Gantt chart? How should personal deadlines be developed? What is an important/ urgent matrix?
	
	• **What is effective notetaking?**
	  o What is the different between passive and active reading?
	  o How can effective note-taking help to avoid plagiarism?
	  o What note-taking structures might work for me? E.g., Cornell method, using proforma, mind mapping.
	
	• **How should I reference my research?**
	  o What information from research needs to be referenced?
	  o How should I reference my sources? What are footnotes? What are in-text citations?
	  o What information should be included in a bibliography? How should a bibliography be formatted?
	  o How can online tools be used to support academic referencing and bibliography compilation?
		Assessing the feasibility of project ideas
		
		Developing successful titles and aims
		
		Academic research methods (including the selection and evaluation of reliable academic sources, how to use libraries and academic databases, the value of primary research, the difference between qualitative and quantitative data)
		
		Time management strategies
		
		Effective notetaking
		
		Academic referencing
		
		Compiling a bibliography
			Project proposals are submitted, and feedback is provided by both the supervisor and project qualifications coordinator
			
			Planning reviews are carried out by the student and supervisor

Lent	• **How should academic research reports (including those to accompany artefacts/ performances) be written?**
	  o What is meant by the synthesis of research? What do examples of effective synthesis look like?
	  o What is meant by the critical analysis of research? What do examples of effective critical analysis look like?
	  o How can source evaluation be integrated into a written report? How else can source evaluation be evidenced?
	  o How should a formal research report be structured? What makes a successful introduction/ subsection/ conclusion? What is an appendix?
	  o What are the features of successful academic writing? What is the difference between descriptive writing and critical/ analytical writing? How should quotes be used?
	  o How should I review, edit and improve my first draft?
	
	• **What makes a successful EPQ presentation?**
	  o What are the requirements of an EPQ presentation?
	  o What makes a good presenter?
	  o How can I learn from my previous presenting experience when planning the EPQ presentation? What techniques can be used to overcome nerves?
	  o How should audience questions be handled?
	  o How can presentation software be used effectively?
	
	• **What is effective self-evaluation?**
	  o How should I evaluate my strengths and weaknesses as a learner from across the project journey?
	  o How should I evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of my project outcome?
	  o What have I learned through completing the EPQ that will benefit me in the future? What would I do differently if I could repeat the process?
			Mid-project reviews are carried out by the student and supervisor
			
			Plans and working bibliographies submitted for feedback
			
			First drafts submitted for feedback and 'project product reviews' are carried out by the student and supervisor

Trinity	• Presentations are delivered and final projects are submitted to be assessed by the supervisor		Presentations are delivered and final projects are submitted to be assessed by the supervisor

Examples of Homework	Homework is largely independent project work and students are encouraged to develop their own aims, objectives, and time-management plans for each term. Set homework tasks include: - Putting together a project proposal to demonstrate the feasibility of the project and the selection of a range of relevant and academically appropriate sources - Producing a project plan - Compiling a working bibliography and demonstrating how the reliability of sources is being evaluated - Writing a first draft
Key terminology	'SMART' targets; Primary/ Secondary research; Quantitative/ qualitative data; Peer review; Synthesis; Critical analysis; Citation; Referencing; Bibliography; Source evaluation
Super-curricular enrichment and scholarly extension	**Read** To get ideas for your project/ carry out research: The Day; Issues Online; Britannica School; Hodder Review Magazines; Global Issues: Gale in Context; InfoTrac Custom Newspapers; JSTOR (all available online through School library subscriptions) To learn about the EPQ, academic writing and managing projects: 'EPQ Toolkit for AQA' Flanagan and McGee (2014), 'AQA Extended Project Qualification' Andrews (2019), 'How to Write What You Want to Say' Hipwell (2015), _Pocket Study Skills_ guides to 'Time Management', 'Doing Research', ' Reading and Making Notes', 'Planning your Essay', 'Getting Critical', 'Brilliant Writing Tips for Students' (all available in the Martin Centre) **Complete:** EPQ MOOC 'How to succeed in your EPQ' (University of Bath) - available through Future Learn **Watch:** Using the Library for your Project Qualifications (video series on SharePoint); example EPQ presentations on YouTube **Visit:** The Martin Centre – both the online and the physical library. Bound exemplars of A* EPQs can be found on the first floor. Relevant lectures and museum exhibitions across London – depending on what your chosen topic is, you should be able to find something relevant https://lectures.london/ https://www.timeout.com/london/attractions/top-london-museums https://www.britishmuseum.org/ https://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/home https://www.iwm.org.uk/

Useful websites	Martin Centre Project Qualifications page: https://library.forest.org.uk/oliver/learnpath/guide/ProjectQualifications EPQ MOOC: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/epq-success JSTOR (a digital library containing over 50 million pages from more than 2000 academic journals – available to students through the school's subscription) : https://www.jstor.org/	
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	Teachers	