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Dear Parents,

During the first half of Michaelmas Term the Lower Sixth will be further introduced to the Extended Project Qualification. Lesson time will be allocated to the Lower Sixth to work with a supervisor as they start their projects. These lessons will start in week six. An Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is a stand-alone Level 3 (A Level standard) qualification and we follow the AQA specification.

There are many benefits for the pupils who complete this project. First, it is awarded UCAS points, up to 30 which is the equivalent of half an A Level, 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. Finally, when coming to write their 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. We will aim to complete the projects by the end of the Summer term 2022. Should anyone have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at the College. We also have a FROG page dedicated to the EPQ.

Kind regards,

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