

What our students say about studying for an EPQ

"The EPQ has provided many great opportunities to develop skills not often covered in A-level. Through it, I've learned how to evaluate and interpret academic sources, which are often in a completely different style to traditional school resources. I've also really enjoyed delving deeper into topics that interest me, investigating in a structured and guided environment. The supervision aspects of the EPQ kept me focused on my end goal, which was especially helpful as otherwise I'd find it difficult to keep myself on track."

"The EPQ allowed me to see what I really wanted to study. At first, I picked a topic on the forefront of computer science: quantum computing. This led to research complications during research as the advanced nature of the field made it difficult to access sources. However, after much deliberation, I realized I was thoroughly enjoying the mathematical side to online encryption and cryptography. This was a contributing factor in my university applications for Mathematics and Computer Science joint honours courses. I also hope to pursue cybersecurity, and in researching how quantum computers could break the internet, I've begun to understand the attack vectors criminals could take when trying to break a system. Attacks invariably can lead to damages, and my EPQ developed my understanding of the consequences and clean-up of an attack"

"My EPQ has provided me with many skills I can bring to other aspects of my academic study, and it helped me to develop skills in finding and evaluating sources, widened my understanding of the computer science field, and influenced what I want to study at university."

"Initially, I was hesitant to begin an EPQ because I was slightly intimidated by picking a title that I could enjoy enough. However, I found that I was actually spoilt for choice and my resultant topic made me realise that I wanted to spend the rest of my life researching and finding out for myself how Physics work. The EPQ is an amazing challenge, and extremely rewarding. The first question in two of my university interviews were about it, and I was so glad that I could elaborate on my love for my subject without hesitation. Having all the information and the passion for it at my fingertips was extremely useful and eased me into my interview well, relaxing me and my interviewer, and readying for more complex questions. It has also really helped me learn to organise my time and pace myself with my work. I found myself becoming more and more independent and self-reliant, and every step I took towards my goal of completion felt extremely rewarding. All in all, I would recommend the EPQ very highly to anyone who wishes to take on a challenge and really engross themselves in something that they might want to do in the future. The climb is steep, but the view is completely worthwhile. I really enjoyed my experience and want others to enjoy it, too."

"I study three sciences and found I actually missed writing essays, so it was good being able to have to produce a long piece of work on a subject I was really interested in."

"My EPQ was based on one of the modules I hoped to be studying at University. This was so useful in kick-starting my wider reading for the course and acted as a great platform for motivation and demonstrating my interest for the subject in my personal statement."

"Doing the EPQ was a brilliant experience that allowed me to explore my subject in a much deeper fashion than would ever have been possible in the course of ordinary A Level studies. It proved to be a very useful process as well, in that it helped increase my ability to meet deadlines and manage skills such as referencing, which will become eminently relevant as university study looms closer. Overall, it was a fantastic thing to be involved in and I am so glad that the school gave me the opportunity to be so involved."