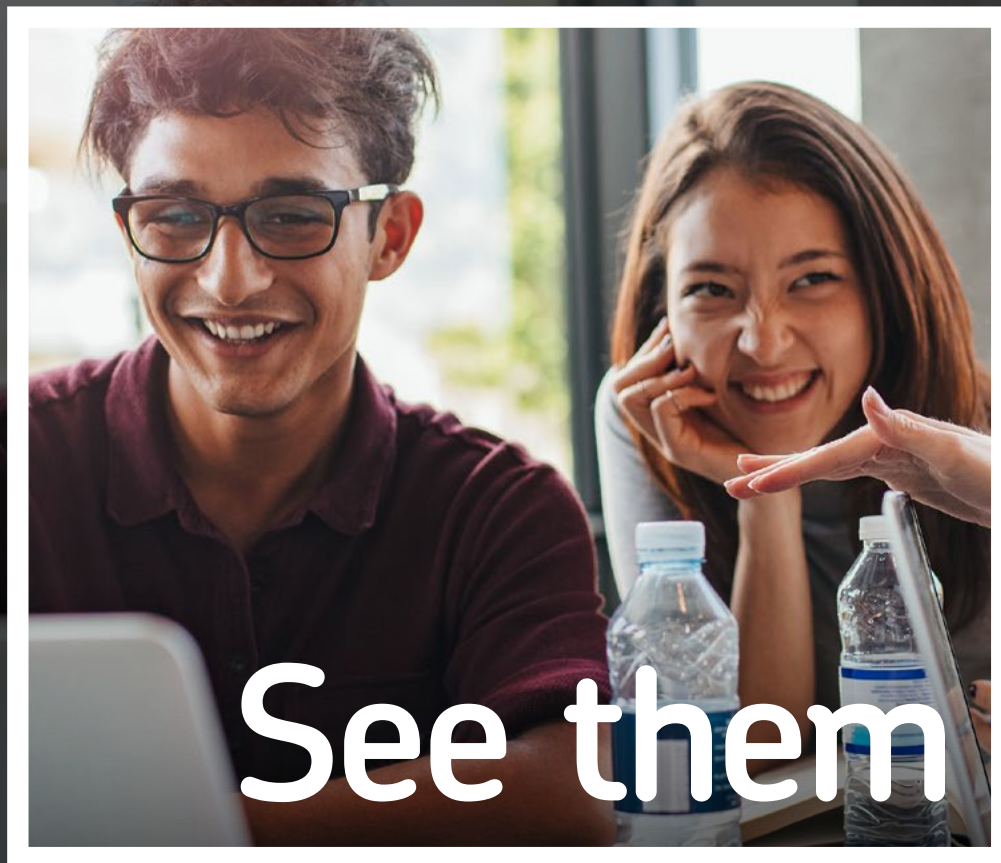


EPQ case study Jane Stevens

Head of Projects, Uppingham School



See them



Jane's story

Jane Stevens is Head of Projects at Uppingham school and has been an EPQ coordinator for five years. Here she shares why EPQ is so successful at her school.

The EPQ presents a golden opportunity for students to create a project based on their interests, not those required by any syllabus.

We offer it as part of our sixth form parallel curriculum. It's timetabled for two 55 minute periods per week, meaning the EPQ forms part of the supervisors' standard teaching allocation. Prior to starting the EPQ, all students have the opportunity to get a taste of the qualification either through the HPQ, which they're offered as an addition to their GCSE curriculum, or through a mini, 1,000 word research project – or an EPQ-lite – which all Year 12 students participate in at the start of their sixth form studies. We do this because the skills learnt are relevant to all A-level subjects, regardless of whether the students decide to take the EPQ.

The students who go on to do the EPQ often cite time management as the biggest skill they've learnt. More often than not, until they reach the Sixth Form, students haven't had to manage their own time, and they find they're able to apply this specific skill to their own lives as they juggle A-levels, university applications and their extra-curricular activities.

Additionally, as a coordinator, I see students develop skills that allow them to think outside of the box – especially given the challenging learning environment they've experienced over the last couple of academic years – to problem solve and think creatively. I see their confidence grow and their motivation to succeed increase.

The EPQ is the best opportunity students have to prepare themselves for university work and the independent study required by degree courses as it demonstrates their ability to self-motivate and self-direct. I conducted some internal research and found that around fifty percent of our EPQ students were given alternative offers at university, based on their involvement with the qualification, and many of our Oxbridge students reported they had discussed their projects in their interviews.

Although it's difficult to correlate a link between the EPQ and success in students' subsequent careers, it's hard to imagine a career where it wouldn't help – the planning and managing element of the qualification will always feed into work-life.

Find out more about the EPQ

aqa.org.uk/extended-project-qualification

aqa.org.uk

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