EPQ delivery model guidance

There are some key points to consider when launching the EPQ and deciding on a model of delivery that is right for you and your students.

30 of the 120 Guided Learning Hours (GLH) for this course form the Taught Skills programme. Students should all undertake the Taught Skills programme, though some students may require some additional specialist teaching, depending on their area of research (for example how to use laboratory equipment safely).

In order to ensure that you have enough time to deliver aspects of the Taught Element at the most appropriate time (eg Time Management Skills are covered before students embark on their projects), you need to find the model that works for you.

There are a number of delivery models that are employed by schools and colleges. Below, you will find outlines of the common delivery models, along with the advantages and disadvantages of each. If you would like to discuss these models and which might be the best for you, please contact your project adviser. If you do not have contact details for your adviser, or are not registered to deliver the EPQ, please contact the subject team on projects@aqa.org.uk or 0161 957 3980.

Model 1
- Start EPQ in September of Year 12
- Submit EPQ in May Year 12
- Advantage: Less likely to experience staff changes
- Disadvantage: Students may lack the maturity demanded by a Level 3 qualification.

Model 2
- Start EPQ in September of Year 12
- Submit EPQ in November Year 13
- Advantage: Students have the summer vacation in which to realise their project product
- Disadvantage: Supervisors may change jobs and/or responsibilities and this could affect the EPQ assessment process.
Model 3
- Start EPQ in September of Year 12
- Submit EPQ in May Year 13
- Advantage: Time pressure removed, students could have an internal centre deadline at the centre's choosing, supervisors are not pressured by a November submission date
- Disadvantage: Possible staff changes more likely
- Disadvantage: Possible competition with A-level mock examinations (but this can be overcome by using an internal centre deadline).

Model 4
- Start EPQ in June of Year 12
- Submit EPQ in May Year 13
- Advantage: Students have completed their first year of A-levels and may have developed greater maturity in tackling level 3 qualifications
- Disadvantage: Possible staff changes more likely
- Disadvantage: Competition with A-level examinations (but this can be overcome by using an internal centre deadline).