

***Please note that this is an enrichment subject that is only available in Year 13 and cannot be chosen as part of a student's core programme.***

### ***General Content***

Students are encouraged to undertake the Extended Project as it proves that they can conduct independent learning. The Extended Project is highly regarded by universities and employers as evidence of an individual's ability to work independently and manage a project. Students can choose any topic that they like as long as it is not something they study in detail as part of their A level courses. Their project can be presented either as a dissertation (5 000 word essay) or an artefact. The artefact might be a physical product, a musical composition, a performance etc. All artefacts must be accompanied by a 1 000 written report outlining the process of production.

A key part of the project is how students choose and refine their project theme. It is recommended that students require 120 guided learning hours together with a significant amount of independent study in order to complete the project. They will be supported in school with timetabled lessons overseen by their Project Supervisor who will help guide them through the process.

### ***Skills and Assessment***

Completing a project at this level will develop project management skills and support students in developing independent learning skills which are vital at university level. Once submitted, projects are assessed and moderated internally by the Project Supervisors, before being submitted to the exam board. Consistent effort through each stage of the process is required as marks are available for planning, managing and evaluating the project, and for a presentation to staff and students.

### ***Aptitudes required***

Students need to be well motivated and interested in their chosen theme. There will be some teaching of research/study methods and all students will have one timetabled lesson per week with their Project Supervisor. However, the onus will be on students to ask for help and support, and to access information through appropriate media.

### ***Work-loads and types of work***

The course will be predominantly research based, with the final project completed before the Easter Holiday in Y13. Students will be expected to complete an online Project Management MOOC provided by the University of Southampton over the summer holiday and start to formulate a topic area and complete initial research. They then focus on the project management and production on their return to school in the autumn term.

### ***Career connections***

Employers are keen for students to be organised, committed, and to be capable of independent research. The Extended Project provides evidence that a student has these attributes. Universities value the qualification very highly and some (such as University of Southampton and University of Bristol) reduce their offer by a grade if a student completes the Extended Project successfully.