



5 October 2018

Dear Year 9 Parent / Guardian,

The **Higher Project Qualification (HPQ)** is an AQA Level 2 qualification that is roughly equivalent to a GCSE. As you may be aware, in the past this qualification has only been offered to some Year 9 students based on science sets.

This year, we are opening HPQ to **ALL** Year 9 students. However, with only **22 spaces** available, pupils will need to complete an application and will be chosen based on their effort and commitment to the programme.

### Why should my child apply for the HPQ?

- This qualification has been designed to stretch and challenge students, especially those aspiring for University, by developing important academic skills required at higher education.
- Students will learn essential skills such as: referencing; essay writing; creating a bibliography; creating a presentation, researching and deploying secondary and primary sources.

### If successful what would my child be expected to do?

- Students will be given an hour per week after school, Thursday between 3.45pm to 4.45pm, and this will act as the 'taught' element of the programme.
- Each week students will cover key skills which they will then understand and apply within their own independent study time.
- Whilst the lessons will focus on developing students' research and academic skills, the students will be expected to plan, research and develop the argument of their chosen question themselves and as part of homework, therefore during an average school week, students are expected to spend a minimum of one hour per week on their project at home.

### What are the main components of the Higher Project Qualification (HPQ) which pupils will be assessed on?

- Production log – A diary that logs the progress they have made throughout the year
- Research – A collection of sources and a bibliography that relate to their topic.
- A 2000 word essay – answering their hypothesis for their chosen question
- Presentation – which summarises their project and reflects on the projects outcomes



## How can my child apply?

- All students will be given information on the HPQ in a special assembly on the 5<sup>th</sup> October and it is here that Form Tutors will hand out application forms. If for any reason, application forms are lost or misplaced an alternative electric version will be placed on SMHW to download.
- All applications must be handed to **Mr. Gibson in the Stage Leaders Office by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.**

If your child's application is successful, both you and your child will receive a congratulatory message and an invitation to attend a launch evening to find out more.

Yours sincerely,

Catrin Williams

Associate Head of Faculty: Student Development