



13 February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Level 3 Extended Project Qualification – Launch Evening

Year 12 students have engaged with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) launch assembly this half term and are now able to apply to add this qualification to their existing programme of study. I am delighted to invite you to attend the EPQ Launch Evening on Wednesday 25 February from 5.00–6.00pm in the Sixth Form Centre. We strongly encourage all interested students and their parents/carers to attend and take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about a qualification that can be truly transformative when undertaken with commitment and ambition.

The EPQ is a highly regarded Level 3 qualification (AS Level) that allows students to pursue an area of personal academic interest through independent research. When completed well, it can significantly enhance university applications, support informed post-18 choices and develop the skills students need for success in higher education and beyond.

The evening will include a guest talk from Jonathon Ives, a former South Dartmoor Community College student and an outstanding example of the opportunities that independent academic study can open up. Jonathon is currently Professor of Empirical Bioethics, Head of Population Health Sciences and Deputy Head of Bristol Medical School. He works at the intersection of ethics, healthcare and social science and advises national and international organisations including NICE and the Wellcome Trust. Jonathon will reflect on his own educational journey and the value of research skills, critical thinking and intellectual curiosity, all of which are central to the EPQ.

Following this, there will be a presentation outlining:

- the structure and expectations of the EPQ qualification
- how it supports progression to university, apprenticeships and other post-18 pathways
- the skills students develop, including independent learning, academic writing and presentation skills

Parents and students will also have the opportunity to:

- view examples of past student EPQ work
- hear real-life accounts from current students completing the qualification
- ask questions to ensure they feel fully informed before applying



All Year 12 students have until 23 February to apply for the EPQ via this [link](#). This launch evening provides an important opportunity for students and parents to explore the qualification in depth and to understand how it can be used to best effect. The EPQ course will begin in the week commencing 2 March.

We look forward to welcoming you on the evening.

Kind regards

Abi Slater
Director of Sixth Form