

EPQ at Samuel Whitbread Academy

Intent	<p>At Samuel Whitbread, we believe that it is vital for all students to have the opportunity to extend their studies through Enrichment. Some of this is in the shape of timetabled lessons and some of it happens at lunchtime, study periods and after school. In all cases though, as well as being interesting and fun, the objective of Enrichment is to give students the opportunity to develop their skills and learning and to enhance their CV in the process. We know that employees and universities are telling us that they are looking for applicants who have that ‘certain something’ that makes them stand out from the crowd in an increasingly competitive world. We have a broad range of enrichment opportunities available to students at Samuel Whitbread and we believe that we cater for all interests and assist in the development of a wide range of skills. Through the Enrichment programme, we believe our students will be given ‘the edge’ over others, to give them the competitive advantage that helps them towards the next steps in their education and/or career. All students are expected to take part in an enrichment option apart from those already taking the Rugby, Football or Netball courses or Further or Additional maths.</p> <p>The Extended Project Qualification is part of the enrichment programme and allows students to carry out in depth research into an area of interest of their choosing. It aims to develop their project management, analysis and research skills to a high level to prepare to further education and/or academic research in the future. During the EPQ course, we aim to develop learners who are confident decision makers who can reflect on the progress they have made and alter their plans if needed to achieve their aims. Through a programme of taught skills, we empower students to become independent by teaching skills and modelling examples before they apply their context and implement into their final project.</p>
Implementation	<p>EPQ</p> <p>Students are given two timetabled sessions a fortnight with their supervisor and one hour a fortnight is dedicated to taught skills where they gain a greater understanding of what they need to demonstrate and how to do this in their project. The role of the supervisor is to advice and support their students but they must not direct, mark or give specific feedback on their projects whilst they are a work in progress. Through the taught skills programme, students are taught how to research ethically, how to select the most relevant and appropriate research method for their topic and how to manage their project. They are introduced to a range of different planning techniques and are encouraged to reflect on their progress against their plan and then devise a new path forward. Students are also taught to be critical of sources and how to identify potential bias through a range of different activities.</p> <p>Other Enrichment</p> <p>MOOCs allow students to study a subject they are passionate or interested in but don’t have access to on the national curriculum. These courses help them to develop their analytical skills and broaden their cultural capital. Teachers for tomorrow allow them to develop a greater understanding of their subject area by devising their own activities to use with a year group lower down the school to support them in their studies. This also gives them to opportunity to work alongside a teachers on a different project getting to know their teacher in a new light. The debate club has held international debates throughout the year where students have had to develop skills in working as a team, forming logical and coherent arguments and analysing and evaluating arguments live. There are many enrichment options available at Samuel Whitbread and we are often very flexible in adding new enrichment when there is a demand for it.</p>

Impact

Due to the nature of EPQ, assessment takes place following final submission, however, students are assessed during taught skills lessons to measure progress against the learning objectives. For MOOC's, students screen shot their completion of the course and upload onto google classroom at key points in the year which then forms the foundation of a discussion with them.

Students who undertake teachers for tomorrow have a mentor that they select from the teaching staff. Progress is recorded in a teaching booklet against adapted teaching standards and students have opportunities to reflect on their progress at the end of each term.