



## **Year 9 Extended Project Curriculum Plan**

The extended project is an independent project to be completed over the course of one term. Each project must include a written report, a form of creative expression (artwork, video, drama etc.) and a presentation.

Students will complete one term of Extended Project Year 9 (EPY9) as part of a three term carousel which also includes Citizenship and ICT.

EPY9 is a unique opportunity for students to accelerate their learning by developing essential academic and thinking skills. Students will develop these skills through researching topics that interest and excite them.

Last year, the first year of EPY9 at The Archer Academy, students produced projects that ranged from An Investigation into Pre-Historic Art to An Analysis of Positive Thinking and The Development of Super-Car Technology.

By delving into specific topics and creating a successful extended project, students will improve their skills in critical thinking, data analysis, public speaking, research and academic report writing. All of these skills can be applied to a range of subjects and are in many cases a requirement for academic success in the GCSE and beyond. In general the extended project is studied by A-Level students, therefore by completing this module in Year 9 students have the potential to develop sophisticated academic skills much earlier than students who do not have the option to participate in this module.

Students will be graded based on the overall success of the project – students' success will be measured through analysis of their academic skills and their use of personal learning and thinking skills (PLTS). The mark scheme for the extended project will be based on a combination of GCSE assessment objectives for English (this will primarily be applied to the writing of the academic report) and assessment objectives used in the Extended Project Qualification for A-level. Students will achieve a grade 1-3 in four different strands: Academic Report Writing, Presentation, Creative Expression and Accelerated Learning Skills



(including PLTS). Teachers will review students' marks and award them a Gold, Silver or Bronze standard accordingly.

While the extended project gives students an opportunity to choose their own topic of study, these topics should fit into a range of titles. When considering their topics students have a range of themes they can choose from: Icons, World of War, Society, Wisdom and Telling Stories. Should a student wish to challenge themselves further they may choose a topic that does not fit within the themes provided; in this case the student would need to write a letter to their Extended Project teacher explaining why they have chosen said topic and why it does not apply to one or more of the themes.

The extended project is specifically designed to empower students to become effective and innovative independent learners. To ensure that students are equipped to reach their full potential, during lesson time students will also learn all of the skills they will be expected to use in the creation of their Extended Project, the development of these skills will be the subject of the first half-term of the extended project. In addition to this the Head of Extended Project and Classics (Ms Hyland) will have office hours twice a week, where students can make an appointment to discuss their project.

This is the second year we have run EPY9 following on from the extremely high quality of work producing by the 2015/16 EPY9 cohort the Extended Project look forward to working with our new Year 9 groups.