



ASHTON
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

A1 to A2 Transition Evening

Monday 22nd June 2026

EPQ

with Dr Rachel Allen - EPQ Co-ordinator
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EPQ Key Information & Timeline for 2026/27

- EPQ Qualification is equivalent to half an A level, plus additional benefits.
- Students will complete a project that includes: an Essay (5,000 words) or Artefact with an Essay, Presentation & Production Log using Project Q, plus include evidence such as planning documents, table of evaluation of sources.
- Recommended time spent on EPQ weekly includes 70 minutes timetabled session and a further 2 hours.
- Summer activities – minimum 7 hours.
- Additional EPQ activities.

ASFC EPQ Timeline

Launch Events: 5th, 7th, 8th, 11th May 2026

Initial Ideas Due: 1st June 2026

Summer Activities: 8th, 9th, 11th, 22nd June 2026

Research Day (Lancaster Uni): 24th June 2026

Writing Retreat (ASFC): 12th August 2026

Masterclasses: 8th & 9th September 2026

Lessons Start: Week of 14th September 2026

Researcher Conference: 25th September 2026

Writing Café: Wednesdays from 7th Oct 2026 (4–5:30pm)

Presentation: 4th February 2027

Final Submission: 4th March 2027

A Summer Activities To DO List.....

Login to Project Q

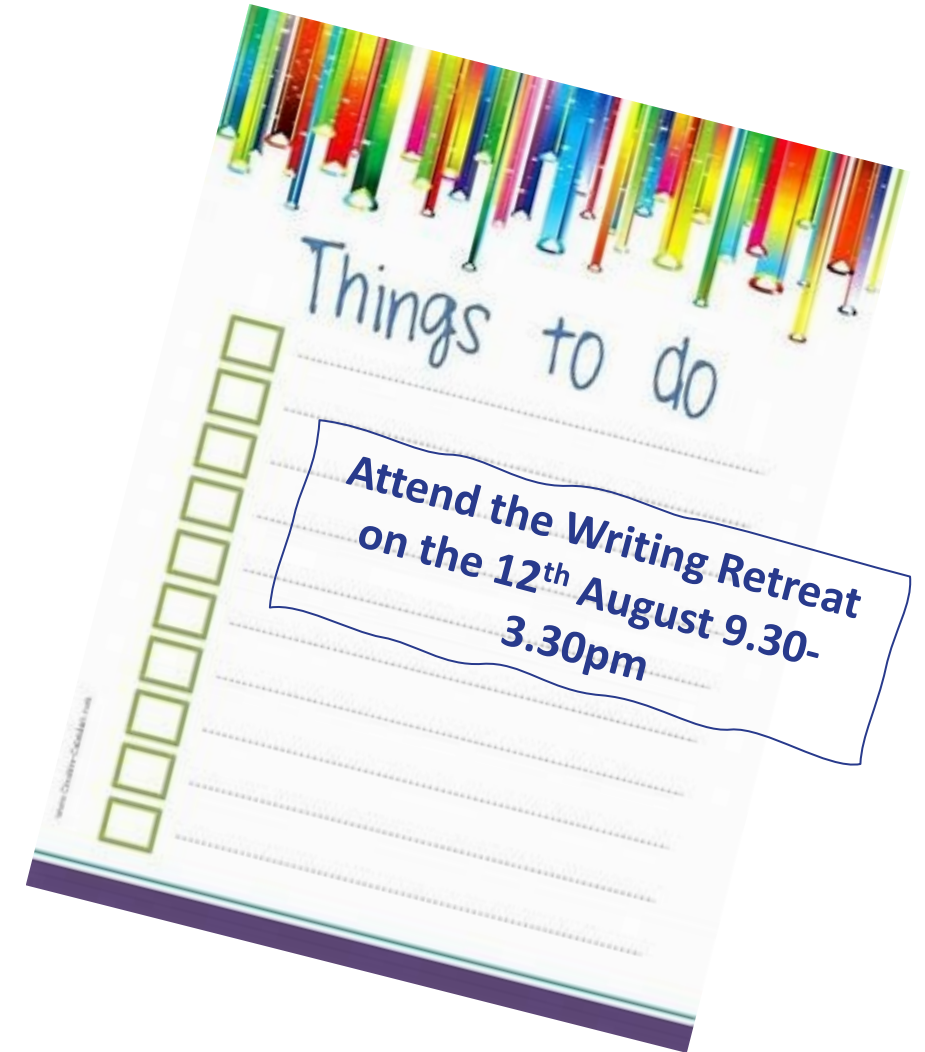
Complete sections Record of Initial Ideas and Candidate Proposal

Complete the short online course with FutureLearn through the University of Leeds. This focuses on developing your research skills using online platforms and will also help you to improve your skills required to critically analyse the sources of information you find.

Carry out some research using sources such as Google Scholar, make notes to help (consider up to 10 hours which could be just a couple a week)

Start Evaluation of Sources table

Start your Journal with Activities completed linking to EPQ this will continue across the EPQ programme



EPQ Qualification is equivalent to half an A level, plus additional benefits....

Helps to develop a wide range of transferrable skills – academic, practical and technical to support transition for both further study within higher education and employment.

Provides contextual offers for undergraduate study at University – for 2025/2026 124 EPQ student cohort 83 students held 183 offers that took into account their EPQ.



EPQ Timeline for 2026/27

The importance of attending additional activities & the only reason why they are not compulsory

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The Importance of attending additional activities....

A significant part of the EPQ is 'reflective practice' of the experiences, skills and personal development throughout the EPQ journey, documented within the Production Log on Project Q – contributes to around 10/50 marks so worth doing well!



375 Students have attended the 'Effective Researcher' EPQ student Conference since 2023

Further Additional Activities include a university library Research Day What Makes a Good Research Question, Academic Writing, Presentation Skills workshops supported by the Universities of Lancaster, Southampton and Leeds.

The Importance of attending additional activities...from EPQ Students 2025/2026

“I also attended the EPQ conference day at college which was an incredible opportunity to hear from various professors from different universities on a range of topics to support new EPQ students at the start of their journey. I took away from this practical information that helped me become a better researcher, but I also took away that a research project is something to be proud of and that expanding your knowledge is sought after by universities”

“Professor Kevin Orr from the University of Huddersfield was also present at the conference. His talk was very significant at this stage of the EPQ for me, as the focus was enhancing research, ensuring ethical sources, and comparing perception versus reality. This undoubtedly boosted my research that I was doing at the time and helped me to choose sources that were credible and reliable, which also contributed to answering the question title of my project”



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The Importance of attending additional activities...from EPQ Students 2025/2026

“Attending the EPQ Conference; Being an Effective Researcher 26/09/25, was one of the best opportunities that my EPQ provided me with I was able to personally interact with many professors and specialists in their fields who all emphasised the importance of research. Professor Kevin Orr emphasised the importance of “systematic, purposeful process which produces new knowledge/theory” and how when humans research they should always do it with integrity, this discussion allowed me to develop a new perspective on research and how credibility should always be given to those who influenced your work. I believe that his session pushed me to uphold dignity and integrity as a researcher”

“A further skill taught by EPQ is the development of an academic writing style, preparing students for university. Throughout my drafting process and following Dr Joe Stanley’s academic writing workshop (University of Leeds), I realised my early paragraphs were too long-winded and descriptive, lacking analytical depth”



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Final Note...

“Hiya Rachel! I’m not sure if you will remember me but I participated in the EPQ 2022-2023 cohort. I’ve just received my mark for my dissertation and it’s amazing. I couldn’t have done it without my EPQ. You taught me so many things that has genuinely helped with my assignments like referencing, and the literature review tables. You, Rob and Helen from the chemistry department, really shaped my educational journey and I want to say thank you for inspiring me to enjoy research so much! Amber Jones, sent 29/5/26

“

“Looking back over my entire EPQ journey, I can see just how much I have grown, not only in terms of academic skills but also in confidence, independence, and resilience” EPQ 2025/26