



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL

G D S T
GIRLS' DAY SCHOOL TRUST

The Warnock Extended Research Project



“For the mind does not require filling like a bottle, but rather, like wood, it only requires kindling to create in it an impulse to think independently and an ardent desire for the truth.”

Plutarch, *De Auditu*

➤ What is the Warnock Extended Research Project?

The Warnock Extended Research Project forms a key component of the OHS Sixth-Form Curriculum and is complementing your A Levels. It is an opportunity for an in-depth study of a chosen topic and offers you the chance to demonstrate intellectual curiosity, independent learning and initiative – all skills that are highly valued by leading Universities in the UK and abroad. You can choose whatever area intrigues you to investigate and produce either a dissertation between 3500-5000 words or an artefact accompanied with a dissertation between 1000-2000 words (an artefact can be a theatrical play or a poetic anthology, a painting or a sculpture, the creation of a website, the production of a graphic design etc.). You will have a supervisor to guide you and give you advice. After submitting a detailed proposal in the autumn term of Year 12 and a first draft in the spring term, you will receive university-style mentoring as you complete your research. In the autumn term of Year 13, you will present your research during our Extended Research Project Festival Day.

Recent topics have included the challenges of creating a vaccination for T.B, Genghis Khan's reputation, super materials, women's rights in the Middle East, the representation of gender in Greek and/or Roman literature, sports and psychology and designing the cities of the future.

➤ You will develop the following advanced study/employability skills:

- Project management skills; planning, target setting and evaluation identify a suitable topic for research and formulate appropriate research questions
- Library skills; critical evaluation and approach of academic scholarship and resources
- Academic writing skills; how to plan a dissertation that includes correct references and uses convincing and sophisticated language
- Presentation skills
- Effective time management
- Decision-making, adaptability and initiative
- Self-reflection and evaluation

➤ Grades, Awards and Commendations

Your project is graded A*-D. In addition to receiving a grade, the top three projects in each section will receive awards and there will be a number of commendations.

The awards are named in honour of two OHS alumnae: Eileen Power (1889-1940), historian and Professor of economic history at LSE, and Dame Josephine Barnes (1912-1999), obstetrician, gynaecologist and the first female president of the British Medical Association. If you are completing an arts, humanities, social sciences or languages based project you will be submitting it for the Eileen Power Award. If your project is a STEM-based project, you will be submitting it for the Dame Josephine Barnes Award.

The University View

- Very useful for the personal statement section of the UCAS application: demonstrates motivation, passion, critical and independent thinking, engagement etc.
- Very useful for interviews
- Helps Universities judge student potential. May make a difference at confirmation

'We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education.'

Cambridge University

'We encourage candidates to draw upon their experience of undertaking the project when writing their personal statement.'

University of Liverpool

"You will be a more convincing applicant if you can demonstrate breadth of reading and independent research into your chosen subject; if you have pursued study beyond that required by your school syllabus..."

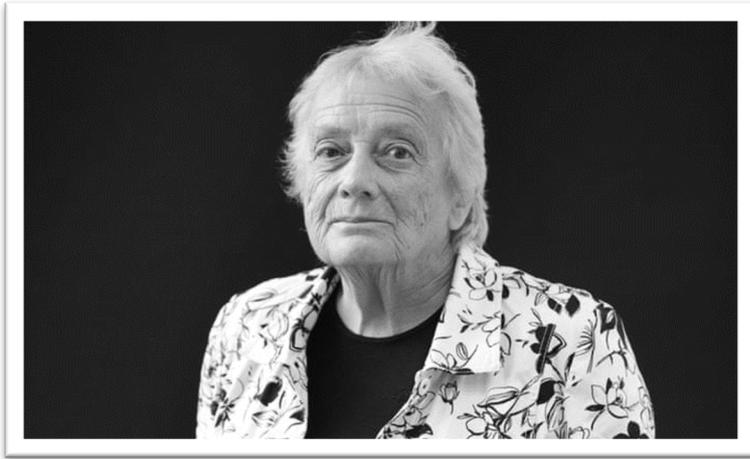
University of Oxford

'The skills that students develop through the Extended Project are excellent preparation for university-level study. Students can refer to the Extended Project in their UCAS personal statements and at interview to demonstrate some of the qualities that universities are looking for. As a research intensive university, The University of Manchester is very supportive of the skills the Extended Project encourages learners to develop.'

Manchester University

'Applications presenting the Extended Project are encouraged to discuss their research in their personal statement and reflect on how undertaking the project will help prepare them for studying their chosen degree at Warwick.'

Warwick University



Baroness Warnock

Our Extended Research Project is named after a true Oxford High Original, Mary Warnock. She can be a fantastic role model for you as you begin your challenging journey into the world of

research!

Mary Warnock CH, DBE, philosopher and politician was born in 1924. She died on March 20, 2019, aged 94 and was Head of Oxford High School from 1966 to 1972, with two of her daughters attending OHS too. Mary was a Classicist and Moral Philosopher before she joined OHS and was renowned for having a bold intellect and robust common sense, qualities that epitomise the spirit of an OHS girl.

She was educated at St Swithun's School, Winchester, where, she recalled, "All the cleverest girls were doing classics and I was jolly well going to be one of them." She won a place at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, as the senior scholar of her year.

She married Geoffrey Warnock who became principal of Hertford College, Oxford, later vice-chancellor of Oxford University. In 1979, she joined the government's Advisory Committee on Animal Experiments and was made a life peer in 1985, sitting as an Independent in the House of Lords. Mary was to become Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge in 1985 which was the first time that a husband and wife were heads of an Oxford and a Cambridge college at the same time.

Between 1982 and 1984, Mary Warnock chaired the Committee of Inquiry into Human Fertilisation and Embryology, arguably one of the most significant periods in her life. As author of the 1984 Warnock report on Human Fertilisation and Embryology, she was able to deliver a consensus on the bioethical issues of human fertilisation and experimentation on embryos and, accordingly, public policy was legally enshrined in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act of 1990. This then created, in 1991, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority which governs treatments such as IVF, surrogate motherhood and licensed experimentation using human embryos, providing the embryo is no more than 14 days old. Her legacy is that this legal framework has since facilitated medical breakthroughs in areas such as embryo cloning and stem cell research.

If you would like more information about our Warnock Extended Research Project, please contact Dr Karapanagioti on n.karapanagioti@oxf.gdst.net.