



OXFORD
HIGH SCHOOL
GDST

The Warnock Extended Research Programme

Sixth Form study options



The Warnock Extended Research Programme

What is the Warnock Extended Research Programme?

The Warnock Extended Research Programme forms a key component of Oxford High School's Sixth Form Programme and complements 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 an area that intrigues you to investigate and produce either a dissertation of about 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 give you advice and feedback on your drafts. You will complete your dissertation and relevant paperwork in Year 12 and you will present your project in front of a small and friendly audience in Year 13.

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.

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 student.

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.



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

The Extended Research Project Pathways

At Oxford High School, students can opt to either prepare for the externally accredited AQA Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) or undertake Oxford High School's own Extended Research Project (ERP):

ERP or EPQ		
Both ERP and EPQ enable you to:	The ERP offers you:	The EPQ offers you:
Make a smoother transition between school and University (e.g. research shows that students are about 15% less likely to leave University after first year and about 10% more likely to obtain a first or 2:1 degree)	The opportunity to have an OHS Inspires mentor to guide you through your research journey. An OHS Inspires mentor is an academic or postgraduate/doctoral student with research experience. You will meet them once a week.	A possibility to receive a lower offer from some universities for some courses if you achieve a good grade, usually an A* or A (<i>remember: this is an opportunity provided from just a handful of universities; you need to check carefully</i>)
Develop your library skills (e.g. learn how to research and reference; critically evaluate and approach academic scholarship and resources etc.)	Flexibility in terms of prioritising one component of the project over the other, depending on your needs and aspirations (e.g. dissertation, presentation, focus on mentor's feedback, record book etc.)	
Develop your library skills (e.g. learn how to research and reference; critically evaluate and approach academic scholarship and resources etc.)	Flexibility in terms of deadlines, freedom to select your topic, and length of dissertation	The opportunity to work with tight and strict deadlines and complete an in-depth log book that clearly demonstrates your ability to plan, organise, manage, write and present a research project.
Learn how to interview and present		
Learn how to work independently on your own topic		
Gain CV-worthy skills	In addition you will have the opportunity to get written feedback on your first draft from an external mentor who is an expert on the topic you are researching	Additional lessons with Dr Karapanagioti, every Monday during lunchtimes. This is a requirement by AQA. These lessons focus on research skills and general advice on the AQA EPQ specification and relevant requirements.
Improve your planning skills		
Learn how to reflect on work and suggest improvements		
Improve your time management		
Discuss your project in University interviews, your personal statement etc.	Flexibility in terms of prioritising one component of the project over the other, depending on your needs and aspirations (e.g. dissertation, presentation, focus on mentor's feedback, record book etc.)	The equivalent of half an A Level
Increase your chance of achieving A Level A*-B by up to 29%		

Grades, Awards and Commendations

Your Extended Research 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 on students completing a research project

"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 interviews 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

'Applicants 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

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

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