

Y8 Independent Research Project

As part of your learning experience in the final weeks of Year 8, we would like you to produce an Independent Project including:

- 1) a visual presentation on your chosen subject (PowerPoint, Prezi or your software of choice)**
- 2) a personal enquiry (details below)**

Extension:

- 3) Either something physical and/or creative to do with your project**

The logistics:

- You will be allocated a project supervisor, ideally in relation to your chosen subject area. (E.g. for a language project, one of the MFL department will guide you). They will help you to come up with a title and focus.
 - You have two weeks to complete all parts of this project (at least parts 1&2).
 - You will still take part in certain academic lessons as normal when not doing a Post-Exam activity, but in some lessons, teachers will allow you to work on these projects. They can also be worked on at home.
 - You will present these informally to your peers and teachers on Wednesday 3rd July. This will be a 'marketplace' style event where you will set your project up on your own table and present to people who show interest in your topic. Parents are also welcome to this event.
 - Your tutors for Y9 will also receive copies of your projects and may come along to the presentation morning too.
 - You will format your personal enquiry following the Upper School formatting system, which will be explained to you by Mr Montgomery. You will also need to consider plagiarism in your work, which will also be explained to you.
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Some example projects ideas:

Brexit

- 1) a presentation detailing what Brexit is, the current position on Brexit, people's views and opinions
- 2) a personal enquiry answering the question: "Why did the British people vote to Leave the EU?"
- 3) Some example creative/physical things:
 - a poster summarising your enquiry/presentation
 - a detailed mind-map of your personal enquiry plan
 - a poem/rap about Brexit
 - a piece of artwork reflecting the contrasting views of the public
 - a website highlighting views of leavers and remainers (or a 'Brexit for 13-year olds' website where you make it 13-year old friendly!)

Climate Change

- 1) a presentation detailing the current position of the world and how Climate Change has impacted that
- 2) a personal enquiry answering the question: "Who is to blame for Climate Change; who is responsible for solving this?"
- 3) Some example creative/physical things:
 - a poster summarising your enquiry/presentation
 - a detailed mind-map of your personal enquiry plan
 - a poem/rap/story/monologue about climate change
 - a piece of artwork reflecting the state of the planet

A Universal Language

- 1) a presentation detailing the facts about world languages
- 2) a personal enquiry answering the question: "Should there be one universal language?"
- 3) Some example creative/physical things:
 - An introduction to your own made-up language (a recording, video, dictionary etc.)
 - A short scene directed by you where people use a new language
 - A piece of artwork reflecting culture and language combined

Part 1: PRESENTATION

This should be a PowerPoint, Prezi or a software of your choice. You need to present your topic over *at least* 6 slides. You should conclude your presentation with 5 questions which the viewer will hopefully be able to answer based on the information you have given.

An example: **Brexit:**

Slide 1: Definition of Brexit

Slide 2: What happened in the referendum (a timeline maybe)

Slide 3: Explain Remain/Leave Campaigns

Slide 4: Where we currently are with Brexit (and why we are in this situation)

Slide 5: Your views on Brexit

Slide 6: Questions to answer

It needs to be informative, concise, in your own words, and well-presented. You may not be able to physically present this so you will need to put it on a timer considering people's reading pace and include all relevant information.

Part 2: PERSONAL ENQUIRY SECTION

The Personal Enquiry is a cross curricular project in which you pose a question and then attempt to answer it having done some research. The crucial part is that you are answering a question rather than just finding out some facts/information about a particular topic. You can do that in the presentation section of your project.

So, if you were doing a Politics-based project looking at Brexit for example, your personal enquiry wouldn't be: '*What is Brexit?*' but instead "*Why did the British People choose to Leave the EU?*". In both cases, you would be finding out information about the topic but with the second example you would need to research evidence for and against which you would use to answer the question. Your supervisor will help you to find a relevant question.

The process of identifying the nature of the enquiry, the research involved and the mapping of the information collected is just as important as the final product. We hope that you will enjoy this opportunity to undertake an independent enquiry and to study a particular area in more detail.

The framework for the enquiry is outlined below:

- 1 **Choosing** - first of all, brainstorm some possible topics, ideas etc. for your enquiry.
- 2 **Decision** - you will need to record and describe the decision making involved in your choice. This is an important part of the project.

- 3 **Researching / Reflecting** - you can now start the process of researching and investigating your choice. You will also need to decide how your enquiry is to be developed and presented:

This might be a word-processed document or a visual/multimedia presentation e.g. Powerpoint or Prezi, a film or a website.

- 4 **Creating** – you will now take forward the enquiry in whichever form is decided above.

Bibliography – Your document/presentation should have an appendix in which you should record the sources of material that you have used as information and evidence. This should be the title of the book, magazine, newspaper, web address etc.

This will be completed in English and some other lessons and for Prep and it will be an independent piece of work. There is no minimum or maximum number of words but the enquiry should reflect this time.