

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number: **[INSERT ONCE PROVIDED BY REVIEW BODY]**



YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Title of project

Using stories to support students' engagement and achievement with Y9 science

Invitation Paragraph

I would like to invite you to participate in this research project which forms part of my MA education research. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what their participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the project?

The purpose of the project is to investigate whether introducing more stories about science into Y9 science teaching can improve the engagement and achievement of students at school X in science.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this project because you teach year 9 science at school X. I am focusing on year 9 students because this is a crucial year as students make decisions to study double or triple science.

What will happen if I take part?

If you consent, I will send you an information sheet explaining the aims of the project, what participation will involve and ask them for their consent to participate in the project. If you consent, the class you teach will be assigned to either receive additional science stories or normal teaching. If your class is one of those that receive the stories, I will provide you with a booklet of stories, each about 1-3 minutes of lesson time focusing on material from the history of science or cutting-edge research. For example, in a lesson on Newton's laws you might tell the story of Émilie du Châtelet's work on Newtonian mechanics and how she had to disguise herself as a man to attend scientific meetings. The short duration of the stories means that there will be no significant detriment to the teaching received by students. The trial will run over a period of six weeks from the 9th of March 2020 to the 20th April 2020. Your commitment involves, in each lesson over the six-week period, fitting in one story from the booklet. I can send email reminders to include a story, if that would be helpful.

I will research the effect of the stories in three ways. First, I will seek permission from, Ms. X, the head of science to students' science internal test data over the period of the research. Second, I will ask students to complete a survey about their attitudes to science at the start and the end of the period. This will happen in form time to avoid loss of learning

and take 8-10 minutes to complete. Third, I will observe two of your lessons over the six-week period. I will sit at the back of the classroom and make general notes about the engagement of students in the class, but I will not record names. I will not record your name as the class teacher, and I will not assess or comment on the lesson. My lesson observation notes will not be shared and published in an anonymised form.

I am requesting permission to a) access the test data of your students and b) observe two of your lessons during the six-week duration of the study. You can indicate your decision on the consent form.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. Your decision will not affect your professional or relationship with me in any way. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact me if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about participation. If you decide to take part, I will ask you to sign a consent form and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

You will have two of your lessons observed over the six-week period.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will be contributing to the development of a new approach to teaching and teachers in both groups will receive a booklet of stories for science teaching (those in the control group will receive the booklet at the end of the project).

Data handling and confidentiality

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR).

- The test data, observation notes and survey responses will be stored on a password protected area of the KCL OneDrive data storage system. The files will be encrypted and password protected. Only I will have access to the files. Your name will not form part of the data set.
- The data in the final report will be written up in such a way that neither the identity of the school or any participants will be revealed to readers.
- In line with KCL data retention policies, your data will be retained for 4 years after the completion of the project.

Data Protection Statement

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2016 (GDPR). If you would like more information about how your data will be processed in accordance with GDPR please visit the link below:

<https://www.kcl.ac.uk/research/support/research-ethics/kings-college-london-statement-on-use-of-personal-data-in-research>

What if I change their mind about taking part?

You are free to withdraw at any point during the project, without having to give a reason, until the end of data collection on the 20th of April. Withdrawing from the project will not affect you in any way. After the 20th of April, because the observation notes will not contain your name, it will no longer be possible to withdraw from the research as the data will be pseudonymised (i.e. the data will be linked with assumed names).

What will happen to the results of the project?

The results of the project will be summarised in my MA dissertation thesis. The results may be used to produce publications in academic journals based on my thesis. If you wish to obtain a copy of my thesis, or any of the resulting papers, please contact me at the email address below. The data collected will not be made publicly available.

Who should I contact for further information?

If you have any questions or require more information about this project, please contact me using the following contact details:

Jemima.bloggs@kcl.ac.uk

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?

If this project has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the project you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Richard Brock, Richard.brock@kcl.ac.uk, Tel: 020 7848 3187
School of Education, Communication and Society, King's College London
Waterloo Bridge Wing, Franklin-Wilkins Building, Waterloo Road, London, SE1 9NH.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.