

## 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 give permission for you son/daughter to participate in this research project which forms part of my MA education research. Before you decide whether you want your son/daughter 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 has my son/daughter been invited to take part?

Your son/daughter is being invited to participate in this project because they are a student at school X and in year 9. I am inviting year 9 students to participate because this is a crucial year as they make decisions to study double or triple science.

#### What will happen if my/son daughter takes part?

If you consent, I will contact your son/daughter to explain the aims of the project, what participation will involve and ask them for their consent to participate in the project. If they consent, their class will either receive additional science stories or normal teaching. For those who receive the stories, the teacher will include a story of about 1-3 minutes of lesson time focusing on material from the history of science or cutting-edge research. For example, a teacher 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 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 to the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

I will research the effect of the stories in three ways in which you can choose for you son/daughter to participate. First, I will seek permission from, Ms. X, the head of science to access you son/daughter's science internal test data over the period of the research. Second, I will ask you son/daughter 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 lessons your son/daughter is

in during 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.

### **Does my son/daughter have to take part?**

Participation is completely voluntary. Your son/daughter should only take part if they want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage them in anyway. Their decision will not affect their assessment or my relationship with them in school. Once you have read the information sheet, please contact me if you have any questions that will help you make a decision about giving consent for your son or daughter to take part. If you decide to allow your son daughter to take part we will ask you to sign a consent form and you will be given a copy of this consent form to keep.

Note that the consent process for the two parts of the research are different. Consent for the observation is opt-out. If you do not wish your son/daughter to participate in the observation, tick the appropriate box on the form. I will still carry out the observation but make sure I do not write comments related to their engagement. Consent for the use of their test data is opt-in. Please choose the appropriate option on the consent form.

### **What are the possible risks of taking part?**

No risks are anticipated related to involvement in the research.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Your son/daughter will contribute to the development of a new approach to teaching.

### **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 son/daughter's name will be used to link their survey response and test data but will then be deleted so the data cannot be linked to your son/daughter.
- 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 son/daughter's data will be retained for 4 years after the completion of the project.

### **Data Protection Statement**

Your son/daughter's 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 my son/daughter changes their mind about taking part?**

Your son/daughter is free to withdraw at any point during the project, without having to give a reason, until the end of data collection on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. Withdrawing from the project will not affect them in any way. After the 20<sup>th</sup> of April, I will link the survey and test data and delete students' names so it will no longer be possible to withdraw from the research as the data will be pseudonymised (i.e. the response 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 your son/daughter 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](mailto: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.**