

Dear Headteacher/ Head of Science,

I am currently studying for an MA in education at King's College London (KCL). As part of my course, I am planning to carry out a research project examining how the use of storytelling in science lessons can impact students' achievement and engagement in science. With your permission, I intend to ask the teachers of three Y9 science classes to include a least one story about science (from a booklet I will provide) in each lesson over a six-week period. The stories will last between 1-3 minutes, 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.

To carry out the research, I will invite all Y9 students and their teachers to participate in the research. The research will focus on measuring the difference in performance between students who are exposed to the stories (3 classes) and those who are not (3 classes). I will measure differences between the two groups in three ways: a) Using a pre-existing survey on students' attitudes to science (The Colorado Learning Attitudes about Science Survey – you can read a copy here: <https://www.colorado.edu/sei/class>). The survey takes around 8-10 minutes to complete; b) With your permission, by comparing student achievement on the routine science tests that fall before, in and at the end of the trial period; and c) by carrying out two observations of a full lesson for each class (12 observations in total) during the trial period. During the observation, I will focus on observing student engagement with the science lessons.

My research will adhere to KCL ethical guidance and I have secured permission to carry out the work from the Research Ethics Office (clearance number). I will seek informed consent from parents, students and teachers before conducting the research, and ensure their identities, and the identity of the school is hidden in the final report and any publications arising from the study. The data collected will be processed in accordance with GDPR regulations, stored on a password protected data storage system and deleted two years after the completion of the project.

If you require any further information about the study, please contact me by email or phone using the contact information below.

Yours faithfully,

Jemima Bloggs