

29/04/2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Year 9 Research Project – Attainment in Chemistry

Outline

As part of my ongoing Master of Education Degree at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, I am required to collect some data from a number of students. This will form the basis of a project that aims to identify the factors responsible for academic performance in Chemistry. This has a long-term goal of allowing targeted interventions that aim to help before a student begins struggling in the subject.

Data Collection

To that end over the next few weeks a questionnaire will be sent to your son which asks a number of questions about their attitudes towards Chemistry. The responses will then be analysed, and some students will be selected to respond to an additional set of questions. These responses will all be treated in accordance with BERA (British Educational Research Association) ethical guidelines, which can be viewed in full at the following link: <https://www.bera.ac.uk/publication/ethical-guidelines-for-educational-research-2018-online>

Data Storage and Usage

Once the questionnaires are completed, they will be stored electronically in the School's IT system which is password protected. All data will be available only to myself as researcher, my supervisor (Dr Fran Riga) from the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge, and RGSHW Senior Leadership. Once processed, all data will be presented anonymously using pseudonyms, and your son will not be identifiable from the research paper. Your son's original responses will not, at any point, be shared outside either the Faculty of Education or RGS. All data will be retained in accordance with GDPR regulations, meaning it will be deleted after 2 years or at the conclusion of the study.

Right to withdraw

As with all research, you have the right to withdraw your son from the study at any time. This can be done by contacting me directly.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (lap@rgshw.com) in the first instance, or Mr Wallace (arw@rgshw.com) who will be acting as independent gatekeeper for the study.

Best wishes,

L A Pettengell
Teacher of Chemistry