

Research on school subject choices

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Blue School, along with approximately 100 other schools, has signed up to participate in an exciting research project with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT). The DfE has commissioned BIT, a social purpose research company specialising in the application of behavioural science, to trial new approaches to help current Y10 students with their A-level subject selection (taking place in early spring of 2020). We consider it is important to be involved in this project as the decisions a student makes at A-level can shape the set of education and career options available to them.

During this research project BIT will deliver information and activities to certain parents/carers and students and then the DfE will evaluate whether these communications and activities have been helpful. A sub-group of parents/carers will be randomly selected to receive communications from BIT, so it may be that your involvement in this work is minimal and you do not receive anything. This approach is important, as it allows the DfE to assess whether the communications and activities have had an impact or not.

The communications and activities are evidence-based and will be similar to those that BIT has previously trialled and demonstrated success with in other educational contexts. You will be able to find out about the insights from this project in 2020.

What does this mean?

- You may receive some communications regarding subject selection from the DfE.
- In school, your child may be asked, by their teachers, to complete a small number of short computer-based activities.
- For the purposes of this research, The Blue School will share some information from its central records with BIT and DfE.¹
- The DfE will share this information (with individuals' names removed) with an independent evaluator in order to evaluate the impact of the research project.

What will happen to the data?

- Please read the **DfE/BIT Privacy Notice** for full details. This can be found on our website here: https://www.theblueschoolwells.co.uk/section.php/40/1/letters_home
- BIT and the DfE takes your and your child's data security very seriously and will be working closely with The Blue School to ensure that data is handled appropriately and securely.
- Data will be shared and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.
- If you have any questions about The Blue School sharing data with BIT and the DfE, please contact the Data Protection Officer at office@blue.somerset.sch.uk or by writing to: Mr R Salt, Business Manager, The Blue School, Kennion Road, Wells, BA5 2NR
- A final report is expected to be published in 2020. No individual student or parent/carers will be identifiable in this report - all details will be fully anonymised.

Would you like to participate?

It is not mandatory for us to share your or your child's data with BIT and the DfE as part of this project. If you would like to withdraw from the research project so that the required data is not shared, please use the form overleaf. You can also write to withdraw your and your child's data from the research project at any time by emailing office@blue.somerset.sch.uk. Please note that your child may still be involved in certain activities at school relating to this research project because these short activities will be delivered by teachers to their classes and students will not be removed from classes when these activities are delivered. Withdrawal relates solely to the sharing of personal data with BIT and the DfE.

¹ The information shared by The Blue School will include name, unique pupil number, year group, school class, gender, ethnicity, free school meals eligibility, attainment data, predicted grades and A-Level choices. The Blue School will also share parent/carers names and email addresses.

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PARENTS / CARERS

If you DO NOT want to take part or you DO NOT want your child to take part, please sign and return the attached form to your child's tutor at The Blue School by Friday 1st February, 2019

If you are happy for your child to participate, you do not need to do anything.

I do not want my child to participate in this project:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Name of student: _____

Tutor Group: _____

School: The Blue School

Date: _____

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STUDENTS

If you DO NOT want to take part, please sign and return the attached form to your tutor at The Blue School by Friday 1st February, 2019

If you are happy to participate, you do not need to do anything.

I do not want to participate in this project:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

School: The Blue School

Date: _____