

# ***RISE: Research-leads Improving Students' Education Project***

Dear parent/carer

We are writing to let you know that your child's school is participating in the RISE: Research-leads Improving Students' Education Project.

The aim of the project is to help us find out the value of having a trained senior teacher to act as a Research Lead within their school. The Research Lead will help teachers to introduce into the classroom the best research evidence regarding effective teaching and learning strategies, with a particular focus upon improving student attainment in English and maths. Research Leads will be supported by a programme of workshops delivered by a team from Huntington School, guided by the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring (CEM) at Durham University.

## **How are we testing the RISE: Research Leads Improving Students' Education project?**

The Institute of Education in London is evaluating the project to see whether taking this approach makes a significant difference to classroom practice and student attainment in GCSE English and maths. It will contribute to our understanding of how teachers can use research evidence most effectively to improve students' results.

The research is using a randomized controlled trial design and involves 40 English secondary schools. Schools have been selected by lottery to be either a school that receives the programme or as a 'business as usual' control school. There are twenty schools in each group.

Your child's school has been chosen to be in the control group. You might feel disappointed that your child's school is not in the group chosen to have the Research Leads programme. But in this kind of project the children in the 'business as usual' schools are as important as the children in schools using the new approach – without their help we would not be able to test what difference, if any, the new programme makes.

## **How will we know if the RISE: Research Leads Improving Students' Education programme improves learning?**

To find out whether the programme makes a difference, the evaluation team would like to follow the current Year 9 and Year 10 students' achievement in English and Maths GCSEs, and compare these between the schools that have the programme and those in the control schools. To do this, we would need to have the students' SATs scores at Key Stage 2 and their maths and English GCSE grades. We would ask schools to provide their students' names and unique pupil numbers so that we could access these tests scores from the National Pupil Database. All pupil data will be treated with the strictest confidence. We will not use your child's name or the name of the school in any report arising from the research.

## **What will happen to the information after the study finishes?**

The data from the study will be anonymised (all names removed) and shared for research purposes with two special data archives being kept from all the education projects being carried out for the Education Endowment Foundation – the EEF data archive and the UK Data archive

## **What happens next?**

If you or your child would like more information about what the evaluation involves, please feel free to contact Meg Wiggins, Director of the Evaluation, whose details are below.

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If you are happy for your child's exam results to be included in the study you do not need to do anything. ***If you do not want your child's results to be included please complete the attached 'opt out' form and return it by post to the research team at the address given below.***

You are free to ask for your child to be withdrawn from the evaluation at any time. Opting out of the evaluation will not affect your child's time in school in anyway or the lessons they receive.

## **How will I find out the results?**

You will be able to find out the results from the project once it has been completed in 2017 from the Social Science Research Unit at the Institute of Education ([www.ioe.ac.uk](http://www.ioe.ac.uk)) and the Education Endowment Foundation ([www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk](http://www.educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk)).

We look forward to working with your son/daughter's school and value your child's contribution to the RISE: Research Leads Improving Students' Education project.

Yours faithfully

Meg Wiggins (IOE Evaluation Director);  
[M.Wiggins@ioe.ac.uk](mailto:M.Wiggins@ioe.ac.uk) or 0207 612 6786.

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**OPT out form – ONLY COMPLETE IF YOU DO NOT WANT YOUR CHILD'S RESULTS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RISE: RESEARCH LEADS IMPROVING STUDENTS' EDUCATION PROJECT EVALUATION.**

Child's name:

DOB:

School name:

I **do not** want my child's anonymous exam results to be included in the RISE: Research Leads Improving Students' Education project evaluation.

Signed:

Print name:

Relationship to child:

Return to:  
Meg Wiggins  
Social Science Research Unit  
Institute of Education, University of London  
18 Woburn Square  
London  
WC1H 0NR