



Parent/Guardian Information Sheet: A level Mathematics Study

If your child was in this school or college last year, you may remember us inviting them to take part in research into how students learn mathematics in schools and colleges. As this research is taking place over two years, we are now inviting all A level maths students to complete another survey now they are in Year 13. The study will support our knowledge of students' feelings about maths including how much they enjoy maths, how they experience learning maths at school or college, and how these things change over time. This sheet tells you about the study. Please read it carefully and discuss it with your child. Their teacher will also talk to the class about it.

Who is conducting the study?

The Observatory for Mathematical Education at the University of Nottingham is undertaking this research. The study will identify trends in maths learning, explore learner experiences and changing attitudes in learners from reception through to university level. In schools and colleges across the country, our A level Mathematics study will follow one group of students from Year 12 into Year 13, and potentially send them further follow up surveys after they have completed their A levels, if they choose to receive these.

Why are we doing the study?

Learning maths is important for each young person's future, for success in education and in life generally. Understanding changes in learners' confidence and enjoyment of maths will help us to advise schools, colleges, and universities as well as policy makers about what to do to better support all pupils to learn maths effectively.

How does the study work?

- 120 schools and colleges are taking part in this research. Last year, Year 12 students in these schools and colleges completed a survey. This year the same students - now in Year 13 - are being asked to complete a survey. Students who did not complete a survey in Year 12 can still complete a survey in Year 13.
- In a maths lesson, the teacher will give students a link to an online survey which will take around 15 minutes to answer. The survey is a set of predominately multiple-choice questions asking about their maths lessons and how they feel about studying maths, now and in the future. There are no maths questions in the survey and students are told that they can choose not to do the survey or complete just some of if they prefer.
- Each year we are also doing a survey of teachers to ask them about their maths teaching. We do not ask them about individual students and do not share students' question responses with them.



- We are also doing a survey of parents and guardians as you have a lot of knowledge about your child's maths experiences and have a unique view which we can learn from.

What information is being collected about my child?

We will ask your Year 13 child to complete the online survey in their maths lesson. The secure online survey will ask them to enter their name, date of birth, gender and school/college name before asking them to answer questions about their experiences of studying maths, the homework they do and what they might do after sixth form. This year we will also ask them if they will share their email address with us so we can send them surveys in the future, but they do not have to provide this.

Prior to completing the survey, students will agree that their school/college can securely share some of their data with us. Your Year 13 child's name, date of birth and unique pupil number will be included so that we can check how many responses we have from each class and so that we can make links to government records about students in England.

At the beginning of the online survey, your Year 13 child will be asked to read information about the research and click to consent to participate. While your Year 13 child might feel old enough to make this decision on their own, it is important to us that you understand what we are asking them to do and can discuss it with them. If you do not think your Year 13 child should participate in the study (and they completed our survey) then we will not keep their response, deleting their information from our records. If you do not wish for your Year 13 child to participate then please email us at mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk. We will keep a secure record of your child's name to process and quality assure the removal of their data from the study.

Your Year 13 child can decide to withdraw from the study at any time, even after they have completed the survey. When they withdraw, we will delete any information that we have about them. However, their anonymous data may still be included in any publications, reports or presentations that are already in progress and where we are not able to practically remove it.

What information is being collected about me?

We are asking you to complete an online survey that will take around 5 minutes of your time. The questions are about you and your Year 13 child's experiences of learning maths and are multiple choice. We will ask you for your name, your child's name, date of birth and school/college name so that we can check we have the correct student and know how many responses we have from each school/college. When we have performed these checks then your response will be anonymised so that you and your child are only identified by a number.



What happens to the information collected for the study?

We store the data securely in a SharePoint site and a Database that are only accessible to the research team. The anonymised survey data will be stored for a minimum of 14 years and then deleted if no longer in use.

How are we ensuring GDPR compliance?

We are processing personal data based on Article 6(1)(e) of UK GDPR in which processing is legal as it has a basis in public interest. Further details of how we ensure compliance with GDPR are provided in the [Privacy Notice](#).

Where will the research be published?

We will publish the research in reports, articles and presentations. No pupil, teacher or school names will be included in these publications.

Where can I find out more information?

If you have questions about the research, contact mathsobservatory@nottingham.ac.uk

If you have concerns or a complaint, contact educationresearchethics@nottingham.ac.uk