

16th September 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

ICCAMS Maths Research Study -Increasing Competence and Confidence in Algebra and Multiplicative Reasoning

I am writing to let you know about a national maths research study which your child's school will be participating in over the next two years (2016/2017 and 2017/18).

As part of the study, your child will be asked to complete a questionnaire about their attitudes to maths and their maths teaching during their normal classroom lessons at two time points. They will also be asked to complete a maths assessment at the end of Year 8. They will be free to choose not to participate in the study. Completing these aspects will take around 10 minutes (in 2016/17) and 50 minutes (in 2017/18). Data about your child will also be passed from the school to the research team to help us complete the research. The information provided will be used to look at whether the ICCAMS Maths programme (being used by the school for the next two years) improves maths attainment. We expect the findings to benefit teaching and learning in the future.

If you agree to your child taking part then you do not need to do anything. If you would prefer your child was not part of the study or have any questions you should contact Clare Collyer, Project Administrator, Durham University, in the first instance on 0191 334 4682, or email ICCAMS@cem.dur.ac.uk or inform your child's school.

We provide more information about what the project involves below. Please read this information before deciding whether your child should take part.

What is the ICCAMS Programme?

King James's School has signed up to be involved with the ICCAMS programme along with more than 100 other schools across England. This will involve teachers in the school delivering the ICCAMS programme in some maths lessons to all Year 7 pupils in 2016/17 and Year 8 pupils in 2017/18. The ICCAMS programme supports teachers in teaching algebra and multiplicative reasoning and fits within the National Curriculum.

Who is doing the research?

Durham University is working with University of Nottingham and University of Manchester, to study the impact that the ICCAMS programme has on students' maths attainment and attitudes to maths. This study is funded by the Educational Endowment Foundation (EEF) and involves Year 7 pupils in schools around England.

The project is led by Vic Menzies at Durham University, Maria Pampaka at the University of Manchester and Jeremy Hodgen at the University of Nottingham.

What does the research involve for my child?

The head teacher of the school has given permission for the school to take part, and all Year 7 pupils will be taught using the ICCAMS approach for some lessons in Year 7 and in Year 8. The University of Manchester team will be asking pupils to complete a questionnaire about their attitudes to maths at the beginning of the project in September 2016 and again at the end of the project in summer 2018. Pupils will also be asked to complete a maths assessment at the end of the study in summer 2018. The research project team will pass the results of the assessment to the school to inform teaching.

Results from all schools delivering the ICCAMS lessons will be compared to results from a comparison group whose pupils have not been taught using ICCAMS to see how much ICCAMS helps pupils. The funder, the EEF, will also look at the longer term impact of ICCAMS and will continue to look at pupil academic outcomes (e.g. GCSE and A-Level results) beyond the end of the ICCAMS programme in July 2018.

How will my child's data be used?

To help us with this research the school will pass on some background information about pupils (name, date of birth, gender, Key Stage 2 results, free school meal status and Unique Pupil Number) to Durham University who will share this with the other university teams. This information will enable the research team at Manchester to match up the information from the maths assessment and questionnaires with past attainment as well as other contextual information (such as Free School Meal status) from the National Pupil Database (NPD). All data collected will be treated with the strictest confidence and will only be used for research purposes –specifically to evaluate the ICCAMS Maths Programme. The data for your child's school will be analysed, together with data from other schools, and no individual pupils or schools will be named or identified in any report.

For the purpose of the research, data collected as part of this project will be shared between the three universities involved (Durham University, University of Manchester and University of Nottingham). The University of Manchester will also share pupil data (name, date of birth, school, year group, UPN) with the Department for Education in order to link to the NPD. The project data will be shared with the EEF and the EEF's data managers (Fisher Family Trust) to allow the longer-term impact of the ICCAMS programme to be investigated. In addition, pupil data will be shared anonymously with the UK Data Archive for future research purposes.

Does my child need to take part in the research?

The ICCAMS programme will be taking place over the next two years in your child's school. However, taking part in the research project is optional. If you are happy for your child to take part and your child's data to be used for the purposes described you do not need to do anything. **If you would prefer we did not use your child's data in this research study, you can opt-out by contacting the school office who will pass details on to the school's project lead. You can also opt-out by contacting the research team directly using the Project Administrator contact details below.** You can opt-out at any time during the project until September 2018.

Does the research have ethical approval?

The research study has received ethical approval from Ethics Committees at Durham University (date: 14/12/15), the University of Manchester (16/09/16) and the University of Nottingham (08/10/15).

Who should I contact about questions or concerns?


If you have any questions, requests or concerns about the study please contact Clare Collyer, Project Administrator, Durham University, in the first instance on 0191 334 4682, or email ICCAMS@cem.dur.ac.uk. These will then be passed on to the best person to answer them.

Any formal concerns about this study should be addressed to the School of Education Ethics Sub-Committee, Durham University via email to ed.ethics@durham.ac.uk and/or to the Research Governance and Integrity Manager, by emailing: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or by telephoning 0161 275 2674 or 275 2046.

Yours faithfully,



Victoria Menzies, Research Trial Lead
Durham University



Jeremy Hodgen, ICCAMS Developer Lead, University of Nottingham



Maria Pampaka, Evaluation Lead,
University of Manchester