



Ark Kings Academy  
Secondary Phase  
Principal: Roger Punton

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are aware that the Covid-19 pandemic has had an impact on our students and our community. As a school we want to be able to assist with the recovery of our community and have agreed to participate in a research project being carried out by The University of Birmingham to explore the impact of Covid-19 on students and their families.

The results of this will be shared with the Children's Commission and the wider government to advise in the allocation of recovery funds and resources. I have enclosed a letter from the University with more details.

The survey will be set for all pupils as a piece of study via their email and Teams. They can also access this via the QR code on the letter from the University or by this link:

LINK TO SURVEY: [https://bham.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aX0hZRHf1PD9EEK](https://bham.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aX0hZRHf1PD9EEK)

They must sign in using the school code – **49671**

This links the responses to our school and qualifies your entry to the £50 Amazon Gift Card draw.

Thank you for your time in completing this survey

Yours sincerely

Roger Punton  
Principal

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## **Education and COVID-19 Research Project**

### **The Impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people's return to education and their future aspirations**

#### **Who we are**

We are a group of researchers from the University of Birmingham interested in exploring the impact of Covid-19 and the school lockdown closures on attitudes towards learning of young people aged between 8 and 16, and how they now see their educational and occupational futures.

#### **What we aim to do**

Our aim is to collect survey responses from young people which will tell us about how they feel, following the school lockdowns and the COVID-19 pandemic. It asks questions over their school activities and other learning, their general wellbeing, some of the events of the pandemic and how they now see their educational and occupational futures. We may also visit some of the young people taking part in school later for a short group discussion to gain further detail on their opinions.

#### **How we aim to achieve this**

We are asking young people aged 8 to 16 years, who live and are educated in Birmingham to take part in this study.

#### **What will happen during the research?**

If you agree for your child to take part, we will ask your child to complete a short online survey on your mobile smartphone or internet connected device. The survey contains suggestions for potential future careers that they may wish to explore based on some of the answers given. We have chosen this method as all schools are busy focusing on 'catching up' with their teaching following the lockdowns. However, if you do not wish to use or do not have access to a device, do not worry. Arrangements can be made for your child to complete the survey at their school.

The survey includes questions about:

- Background (Gender, Ethnicity, area you live etc.)
- Mother's/Father's/Carer's Occupations
- How your child feels about events during the COVID pandemic
- Your child's future hopes and dreams and who influences these

Following the survey, a small group discussion may be held later in school with some children, if they wish to do so, will be able to expand further on their survey answers.

#### **Why you should take part**

The information you provide will help us to understand how young children and people have been affected by the disruption to education due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It will also help your child to think positively about what career options they can aim for in the future as we recover from the impact of the lockdowns.

If you agree to take part, you will be offered the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw, with a chance to win a £50 Amazon gift card. To be drawn four weeks after the end of the group discussions.

#### **What happens if you change your mind about taking part?**

If you or your child would like to withdraw from the study, you can let us know by email at any time (see contact details at the bottom of the page). If you wish for your child's data to be removed, you can request this up to four weeks after survey and/or group interview completion. For the survey, please make a note of your response ID number given at the end of the survey to identify your child's responses.

### What we will do with your information:

- All answers given will be CONFIDENTIAL.
- We will follow data protection law (Data Protection Act 2018).
- We will keep all information gained stored securely and private for 10 years then it will be destroyed.
- We will write reports to share the findings of the study with other researchers, schools and the public but no-one will be able to identify individuals from the reports.
- If you would like to know more about your rights or how we use your information, please read our Privacy Notice at <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/privacy>.

### What to do next

A school specific letter is included with this leaflet. If you would like your child to take part in this project, please use the QR code or web address on the letter to access the survey. You will be asked to enter the security code on the letter and please be aware that this survey can only be accessed once. You will be asked for your consent to participate before handing your device to your child. If you do not wish your child to take part in this study, please ignore this leaflet\letter. The survey should take around 15 to 20 minutes.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE FURTHER INFORMATION OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE STUDY RESEARCH TEAM ON THE EMAIL BELOW**

### Sources of support

Although no especially sensitive questions are intended to be asked, the coronavirus pandemic has changed all our lives, and many people are finding day to day life challenging. If you and your child are having difficulties or feel that you are struggling, the following sources of support may be helpful. You may also consider contacting your school for pastoral support, or your GP (family doctor). Further advice is also available within the survey.

#### **Childline**

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

Tel: 0800 1111

#### **The Mix: essential support for under 25s**

<https://www.themix.org.uk/>

Tel: 0808 808 4994

#### **Mind for better mental health: information for young people**

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/>

Tel: 0300 123 3393

#### **The Children's Society: Coronavirus Covid-19 information and support**

<https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/coronavirus-information-and-support>



UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

**November, 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Ark Kings Academy** is working with researchers at the University of Birmingham on a project to try and understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on young people's return to education and their future aspirations and your child has been invited to take part.

There is an information leaflet about the project included with this letter. The data collected will be kept completely confidential. Your child will not be identified within any reports produced and a copy of the final report will be sent to the school.

**If you agree to take part, you will be offered the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw, with a chance to win a £50 Amazon gift card.**

If you wish for your child to take part, the survey can be accessed via the QR code above or web address below. You will need to enter the included security code and click to give consent for your child to participate in the project before handing access to your device\computer over to your child to complete the survey. It should noted, it is easier to complete on a computer, laptop or chromebook.

## **Education and COVID-19 Research Project**

### **Consent and access information**

Participating School: **Ark Kings Academy**

#### **LINK TO SURVEY**

[https://bham.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_aX0hZRHf1PD9EEK](https://bham.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aX0hZRHf1PD9EEK)



*Security Code:*

**49671**

Should you have any questions regarding this research, please do not hesitate to contact us on [educationc19@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:educationc19@contacts.bham.ac.uk). Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Lloyd Hopkins,  
*Doctoral Researcher, University of Birmingham*