

Invitation to participate in research

Your child's school sometimes recommends pupils to participate in an extracurricular programme called the Wheeler Programme, which is run by Wellington College. Wellington College has asked a researcher at Lancaster University to look into how the programme is doing and we will be asking everyone that participates in the programme to complete a questionnaire.

We would like to ask your child to complete the same questionnaire. This will show us the alternative viewpoint of someone that does not participate in Wheeler. Three of the completed questionnaires received will be drawn at random and these three participants will each receive a £50 Love2Shop e-gift card, that can be exchanged for credit at places including asos, M&S, John Lewis, Pizza Express and Argos.

The key aspects of the research and what it may mean for your child are set out over the following pages. This information is supplied to help you to decide whether or not you wish your child to take part in the research.

The review will be led by Kerry Symeonidis, a part-time member of Wellington College staff and MA student in the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University. The university will oversee the research and ensure it is conducted in line with good practice.

Please let us know if you are willing to participate by completing a short consent form at <https://forms.office.com/r/YU4vxS5FT0> before **midnight on 30 July**.

What will taking part require?

If you and your child decide to take part, we will ask him/her to undertake the following tasks:

1. Complete an online questionnaire that will ask about behaviour, experiences, and attitudes related to school, education and the future.
2. Possibly, to answer some follow-up questions by email.
3. We may also ask his/her headteacher how they see your child's behaviour, experiences, and attitudes related to school, education and the future. This provides a really useful adult observation, but if you don't want us to ask the headteacher, then you can use the consent form to tell us not to. You can also ask to see the questionnaire that we will use before you decide.

What are the possible benefits from taking part?

Three of the completed questionnaires will be drawn at random and these three participants will each receive a £50 Love2Shop e-gift card, that can be exchanged for credit at places including asos, M&S, John Lewis, Pizza Express and Argos.

Your child's participation will also help us to determine the impact of the Wheeler programme which in turn may:

- Help your school to decide whether to continue to nominate children (and which children) to participate in Wheeler in future years;
- Help Wellington College decide whether to scale up the programme and support more pupils;
- Help other schools to develop similar schemes of their own and support more pupils;
- Contribute to the knowledge base about what extra-curricular activities can develop soft skills.

Is it obligatory to take part?

No. It is completely up to you to decide whether or not your child will take part. All participation is voluntary. If you decide not to take part in this study, this will not affect your child's relationship with their school or with Wellington College.

Will it be possible to withdraw later?

If you and your child agree to take part and then change your mind, you are free to withdraw at any time. Upon informing us that you wish to withdraw, any information (data) that your child has contributed to the study will be deleted. However, it is difficult and often impossible to take out data from one specific participant when this has already been anonymised or pooled together with other people's data. Therefore, you can only withdraw your child's data up to 1 week after completing the online questionnaire.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is unlikely that there will be any major disadvantages to taking part, apart from taking up around an hour of your child's time.

The participating schools, teachers and pupils will all be anonymised in the research outputs so there should be no difficulties later on with attribution.

Will the data be identifiable?

No. Only Kerry Symeonidis, the researcher conducting this study, will have access to the online questionnaire that your child will complete before the data from it is anonymised. She will keep all personal information about your child (e.g. name and other information that can identify your child or their school) confidential, and not share it with others, including anyone at their school or on the Wheeler Programme.

How will the information shared be used and what will happen to the results of the research study?

The information that your child shares will be mixed with the data given by other pupils and anonymised (names removed) before making into a report or reports that will be used:

- To inform Wellington College and the funders of the Wheeler programme of the impact that the programme;
- To help the managers of the Wheeler Programme to adjust the curriculum to maximise the positive impact it is having on participants;
- As the basis for a piece of coursework to be submitted as part of Kerry Symeonidis's masters study at Lancaster University.
- Potentially in a blog, presentation or other communication to the education sector to encourage replication of the Wheeler approach, if appropriate.

All quotes will be anonymised and your child and their school will not be identifiable in any publication or communication.

How will the data be stored?

The responses to the online questionnaire data will be stored securely online accessible only with a password. Data downloaded will be encrypted and on password-protected computers. Any hard copies of data will be held securely in locked cabinets. Data downloaded that can identify you or your school will be held separately from the answers that you give to the questions. In accordance with University guidelines, the data will be kept securely for a minimum of ten years. For further information about how Lancaster University processes personal data for research purposes and your data rights please visit: www.lancaster.ac.uk/research/data-protection

Ethics approval

Plans for the study have been reviewed and approved by the Research Supervisor in line with the Lancaster University Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' Research Ethics Committee.

How do I communicate my decision to participate or not?

Please complete the consent form at <https://forms.office.com/r/YU4vxS5FT0> before midnight on **30 July 2021**.

Further questions or concerns

If you have any queries now or at any time during the study, or if you are unhappy with anything that happens during your child's participation in the study, you or your child are invited to contact us as follows:

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Thank you for considering whether your child may participate in this research.