



15th April 2017

Dear Parent/Legal guardian,

The University of Oxford is collaborating with the non-governmental organisation *Lebanese Alternative Learning (LAL-NGO)* to review some of the science tasks available on Tabshoura platform and improve them. We would like your child to help us by participating in our work.

What would your child be asked to do if you agree for him/her to participate in this study?

Your child and his/her classmates will be asked to work on a number of science exercises. Then the answers will be analysed and the information will be used for research purposes only. It will not be a problem if your child does not perform well on these exercises. Their teachers and the school will not have access to the scores.

Your child may be chosen to discuss his/her answers with a researcher. The researcher will be taking notes and will audio record the conversation your child will have with her but she will never report or reveal your child's name, the name of his/her teacher or his/her school in any of the papers and books she is writing. Your child may also be photographed, with your consent, though photos will be blurred so your child cannot be identified. Your child will be made aware of his/her rights to take a break and withdraw from the study at no cost before any test or interview.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact me through your child's teacher.

What if I did not want my child to participate?

This is absolutely fine and will not affect your child in any way. If you agreed for your child to participate and later changed your mind, you can let the researcher know you would like your child to withdraw from the study and this will be absolutely fine too.

What happens to the results of the study?

Results for each child are kept strictly confidential. Only a code number will be used to identify children, and all information and results are kept on password-protected devices and in a locked filing cabinet in the University. The summary of our findings will be given to the school at the end of the project and will be available to interested families.

Photographs may be published for research purposes at conferences, the University of Oxford website, and the researcher's Twitter/Facebook account, and research data may be published in academic publications.

Research data (not sensitive/personal data) will be kept securely for a minimum of three years according to University Policy.

Statement of any benefits or risk

We thank you for giving permission for your child to participate in this study. Your child's participation will help us improve the exercises offered on the Tabshoura platform and provide children in Lebanon with great online support to their education. We do acknowledge that your child may experience some stress while solving the set of exercises he/she will be presented with and should he/she take part in the follow-up interviews. We will try our best to make your child feel comfortable by giving him/her breaks when your child requests one and remind him/her that he/she can withdraw from the study whenever he/she wishes with no consequences whatsoever. We will also provide your child with healthy snacks and water. Please inform the school teacher of your child's dietary requirements if relevant (e.g. allergy to nuts, etc.).

I am happy for my child to take part. What do I need to do?

Please fill in the enclosed consent form and return it to your child's class teacher if you would like your child to take part in this study.

What to do if you have a concern or complaint

If you have a concern about any aspect of this project, please speak to the relevant researcher (Dr Yasmine El Masri: [mobile number]) who will do her best to answer your query. The researcher should acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how she intends to deal with it. If you remain unhappy or wish to

make a formal complaint, please contact the chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford (Chair, Social Sciences and Humanities Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee; Email: ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD). The chair will seek to resolve the matter in a reasonably expeditious manner.

Please tick each box below if you agree.

- ☐ I understand the information about the study and I have had any questions answered.
- ☐ I allow my child to take part in the study.
- ☐ I do understand that my child has the right to refuse or withdraw from participating in the study at any time and will be made aware that this will not affect his achievement in school.
- ☐ I am happy for researchers to take photos of my child so long as my child is not identifiable (e.g. face blurred) while keeping him/her anonymous and use the photos for research dissemination purposes only.
- ☐ I am happy for a researcher to ask my child to talk about how he/she solved some science exercises.
- ☐ I am happy for the researcher to audio record what my child says.
- ☐ I know that people from the University can communicate their findings to other researchers and people at LAL-NGO.
- ☐ I know how to report a concern or complaint.

Dietary requirements:

- ☐ My child has no dietary requirements.
- ☐ I have informed the school teacher of my child's dietary requirement.

Your FULL name (PLEASE PRINT) _____

Your signature _____ Date _____

For official use only

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