

Dear potential research participant,

Ethics of informed consent for TransMaths Research Project

The University of Manchester is involved in a research project which is investigating the transition from A level to higher education. A brief description of the research is given overleaf and further information can be found at <http://www.lta.education.manchester.ac.uk/TLRP/> and www.tlrp.org.uk

I have signed below to indicate that I agree that _____¹
may take part in interviews, discussions and other research for the project in the knowledge that:

- The research is intended to contribute to the improvement of the mathematics education of students everywhere in the UK;
- there will be anonymity of all participating persons and places, e.g. students, teachers, classrooms, universities, Colleges etc in all the public work of the project (e.g. names in texts and faces in any images will be anonymous);
- I have the right to withdraw from the research at any time, without giving any reason.

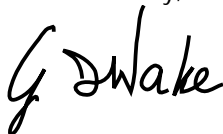
Signed _____,²

Name _____ (Please Print)

Date _____ Phone Number _____

We thank you for returning this letter even if you are not giving permission, so that we are aware of your wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Geoff Wake

¹ Please insert your own name if aged 18 or above or the name of the student for whom you are legally responsible as parent or guardian if they are under the age of 18.

² Please sign yourself if you are aged 18 or over or for the student for whom you are responsible as parent or guardian if they are under the age of 18.

TransMaths Research Project

This is a research project being carried out by a team based in the School of Education at the University of Manchester that aims to understand how students who have chosen to study a range of courses are supported with their mathematics during transition into and during their first year of university. This links with a recent research project completed by the team which investigated students studying mathematics at college.

Your first choice university course may be one that the project will be investigating over the next two years, or you may have been involved before. The team would be very pleased if you would take about 10 - 20 minutes to complete an on-line questionnaire that will help us to understand students entering such courses (what we call 'transition' into university). All information that you give will be treated confidentially and will not be shared in such a way with anyone, including staff associated with your chosen course, in any way that will identify you.

If you agree to stay with the project we will ask you to complete three questionnaires before, during and after the academic year (2008-9) and with your permission may get in touch to interview you in more detail. If you agree to take part in an interview, this will be conducted at a time and place convenient to you. Each interview will last about 40 minutes and will be recorded and transcribed.

So, welcome aboard and enjoy the journey!

Please feel free to call Tim Millar at 0161 275 3490 if you have any questions. Members of the research team can also be reached at through the department office at 0161 275 3409.