

Dear Parent,

PERFORM: Participatory Engagement with Scientific and Technological Research through Performance

I am delighted to be writing to you about an exciting international research project which Albany Academy has been invited to participate in. I have invited your child to participate as their science teachers have recommended them to me. Please read the information about the project below and sign and return the consent form to me by..

Yours faithfully,

N Fox

Head of Science

Information for participants and parents

Science made simple are working with researchers from the PERFORM consortium on a new research project designed to explore the effectiveness of using performing arts in science education to engage secondary school students in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects (STEM).

To achieve this, we will conduct a participatory research process involving secondary school students, teachers and early career researchers in the development of a science education project using performing arts to explore relevant scientific topics at schools. Each interaction with the students will be systematically monitored and assessed throughout the duration of the project so as to include a pre, during and post-performance assessment. This will allow us to identify and analyze any cognitive and behavioral changes towards science and related careers by the boys and girls taking part.

The benefits of participating in the project include getting involved in a unique learning experience where students will have the opportunity to approach scientific issues with artists and scientific researchers. They will also receive training in performing arts and will build valuable transferable skills, desirable for future STEM careers and jobs. Individuals will not be paid for participating in this study, however, expenses will be covered for teachers and early career scientists actively taking part. The schools will also receive the materials required for this project.

This research is funded by the European Commission through a Grant to Isabel Ruiz-Mallén (from University *Universidad Oberta de Catalunya* –UOC, Spain). To conduct the research, this study will use a case study approach based on a total of twelve secondary schools in France, Spain, and UK will be. A total of approximately 600 students will be constantly involved in the research as stakeholders. An additional 6,000 students from 30 to 48 other schools will receive some engagement through this project (i.e., by attending the resultant performances).

Students taking part in this project will be actively involved in a set of workshops designed to encourage collective reflection and dialogue with early career researchers about STEM and relevant scientific topics. The workshops will be recorded in video and audio formats enabling researchers to compare interventions over time and track changes within the group. Students, teachers and early career scientists will also complete a written survey and, eventually, they will be interviewed on their perceptions, attitudes and interest in STEM. The assessment will also include a social media analysis of participants' interaction related to the study in social platforms. Private and personal information will not be obtained during this analysis nor will secretive methods be used to gain access to social media data. PERFORM will be accessing content that audience members choose to make public, either on the performance groups webpages or on Twitter. The data generated in this study will be used for basic science research; it will not be used with any commercial purpose.

All of the procedures chosen for this study are widely used by social researchers and entail no risk to the participants. The Principal Investigator and other participants in the team have considerable experience with using these methods, having used them successfully in numerous social science research projects over the last 10 years. The PERFORM consortium will treat any personal information and data with the highest level of consideration, courtesy, privacy and ethical practice according to the corresponding national legal and ethical requirements.

Informed consent

We are asking for your participation, because your child studies in one of the participating secondary schools and has been selected to take part in the PERFORM project. Your child does not have to participate if you do not wish so, and you are welcome to decline to proceed at any time. Participation in this study is strictly voluntary. There are no penalties to people who decide not to participate, or who started to participate and later decided to withdraw.

Data from this project will only available to the project's key personnel. Data are completely confidential. All names will be replaced by coded numbers. Any publications, videos and reports to the funding agency will not identify participants by name. Data will not be used for any purpose other than scientific publications. Data will not be sold, given, or pass in any other way to third parties that might use it with any other purpose than research. Even in this case, we will ensure that third parties cannot identify the person who provided data.

Information will be used to inform scientists and the public in general about the effects of the use of innovative science education methods based on performing arts in fostering young peoples' motivations and engagement with STEM. At the end of the research, we will carry out a workshop at each school to inform about our preliminary research results and ask for feedback. We will invite participants, parents, members of local institutions, and research institutions. A group of students who will be actively engaged in the participatory research will also execute the generated performance-based science education activities in their own school, becoming agents to engage and to motivate other youngsters to approach STEM. We will prepare publications in local languages to disseminate the lessons learned.

Isabel Ruiz-Mallén is the responsible for the project, and you might ask her any questions about the project or the procedures. She will be visiting the schools at least once a year. You can also write to her at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, 08860 Castelldefels, Spain. You may also call at 00 34 93 2535743 or send an e-mail to iruiz mallen@uoc.edu. If you have questions about your legal rights as a research

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Name of participant. TSOBEL PA	RKINI.
Signature of parent	Date (must be signed prior to entry)
I have explained the research to the participant a believe that he/she understands the information d consents to participate.	nd answered all of his/her questions. I
Name of Investigator/research team member (type	e or print): L Gunn
Signature of investigator/research team member	

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Name of participant. Kian Rich	<u>.</u>
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Name of Investigator/research team member (ty	pe or print): L Gunn
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Signature of investigator/research team member	r Date

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Name of participant. Mathew Foster	<u>.</u>
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Name of Investigator/research team member (type	or print): L Guno
Signature of investigator/research team member	. 25/11/16 . Date

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Name of participant . <u>CHATUOTTE</u> DAVE	SPOIZÍ.
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I have explained the research to the participant a believe that he/she understands the information of consents to participate.	
Name of Investigator/research team member (type	e or print): L Crunn
Signature of investigator/research team member	<u>. 25/11/16</u> Date

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Name of participant . Charlie Houc	àrth.
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Name of participant. Melissa Biggi	<u>.</u>
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Name of participant. ELLIE DRIVER	<u>.</u>
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Name of Investigator/research team member (type	pe or print): L Gunn.
Signature of investigator/research team member	. 25/11/16

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Name of participant. Alex Shattock	<u>.</u>
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I have explained the research to the participant believe that he/she understands the information consents to participate.	and answered all of his/her questions. In described in this consent form and freely
Name of Investigator/research team member (ty	pe or print): L Gunn
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Name of participant . GEORGINA J66	CAGRY.
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Name of participant. Hollie, Fisher.
Signature of parent Date (must be signed prior to entry)
I have explained the research to the participant and answered all of his/her questions. believe that he/she understands the information described in this consent form and free consents to participate.
Name of Investigator/research team member (type or print): L Cunn
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Signature of investigator/research team member Date

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Name of participant . MATHER	6700
Russell St.	21-11-16
Signature of parent	Date (must be signed prior to entry)
I have explained the research to the participant and answered all of his/her questions. I believe that he/she understands the information described in this consent form and freely consents to participate. Name of Investigator/research team member (type or print):	
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Name of participant. HARIETTE CLOVER.	
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Name of participant. Cecula Moore.
I have explained the research to the participant and answered all of his/her questions. I believe that he/she understands the information described in this consent form and freely consents to participate.
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Name of participant. Alex Exley.
Signature of parent Date (must be signed prior to entry)
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Name of Investigator/research team member (type or print): L Crunn
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Name of participant. Emily turner	<u>.</u>
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Name of participant. Samantha Holland.	
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Name of participant. Piper Stevens	
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