



5<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

### Research Study – FLASH Marking in English

We are pleased to let you know that Ripley St Thomas CE Academy has signed up to take part in a national research and development project called FLASH marking. The Principal has given permission for the programme to be delivered to all pupils starting Year 10 in September 2018. The project will run until these pupils leave school in June 2020.

FLASH marking is a programme designed to provide simple and helpful written feedback to pupils in their English lessons. It provides a series of codes to explain where pupils have done something well and to show them areas where they can develop their learning and make further progress. The codes are used instead of grading. The programme has been developed by Meols Cop High School in Southport. They will be training English teachers at your child's school in this feedback method. FLASH marking is designed to improve children's attainment and progress in English Language and English Literature. The coding system allows teachers to provide individualised feedback which pupils can then act on in order to improve and develop in English.

Schools will be randomly selected to participate in this intervention. Half of the schools which have agreed to be part of the study will receive the FLASH marking intervention while half will not, and will continue with their usual marking practices. Previous studies have shown that high quality feedback can have a positive impact on children's academic performance. Meols Cop High School have delivered FLASH marking in a small number of schools already and feel that it has the potential to support pupils' English attainment. A team from Durham University are working with Meols Cop High School to study the impact of FLASH marking on children's English attainment. To enable us to do this we will be using pupils' GCSE English grades.

To help us with this research the evaluators will access the National Pupil Database (NPD) to obtain Key Stage 2 data and GCSE results in English through linking with the National Pupil Database (NPD). The information will also include details such as gender and free school meal status to allow further evaluation. All pupil and assessment data will be treated in the strictest confidence and never be made public. No individuals will be identified or identifiable. The data for your child's school will be analysed anonymously, together with data from other schools, and no individual pupils or schools will be named in any report. The data will be anonymised (no names will be attached) and shared by Durham University with the Education Endowment Foundation data archive.

We hope you will support this important study. If you do not wish for us to use your child's data, you can opt out by signing below and returning the form to Mr Gomersall **by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018**. Your child will not be disadvantaged in any way. If you have further questions about the project or the evaluation you can contact us directly. Contact details are below:

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Cunliffe  
(Project Lead at Meols Cop High School)  
Email: [info@flashmarking.co.uk](mailto:info@flashmarking.co.uk)

Dr Rebecca Morris  
(Lead Evaluator)  
Durham University  
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**NB: You do not need to return this form if you are happy for your child's data to be used in the way described above.**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ School Name \_\_\_\_\_

I **do not** want my child's anonymized data to be used within the FLASH marking project evaluation.

Name of parent/caregiver: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to Mr Gomersall by 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

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