

Appendix A

Participant Information and Consent Form for the Headteacher

Dear Headteacher,

I am currently reading for an MSc in Digital Education (University of Edinburgh) and in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree, I have to present a dissertation, in which I have chosen to explore and evaluate the effect of different modes of assessment utilising digital learning technologies on students' academic performance. Through this research, I hope to gain a better understanding of how assessment can improve students' academic performance and provide better support to my students' learning in terms of assessment.

This research has been reviewed by and obtained the necessary approval from the MSc in Digital Education programme at the University of Edinburgh and the Research and Development Department within the Ministry for Education and Employment. Voluntary written informed consent will be sought and obtained by the parents or legal guardians of prospective participants on behalf of their sons.

Two Form 5 Physics groups will be invited to participate in the study and I, as their teacher, will offer them innovation in the use of digital learning technologies for assessment purposes. This will help all students, as well as parents, to better manage and monitor the learning process. All assessments which will be carried out, in the form of interactive quizzes, collaborative work and in-class tests amongst others, will be strictly syllabus- and curriculum-related and will in no way interfere with the normal run of classroom activities. In fact, all assessments planned in the research, which will take place in the first three months of the scholastic year, are designed to complement and assist the students in their learning and understanding of Physics.

The information collected with your kind permission and participants' consent, will constitute the basis for my research findings and will be treated with confidence at all times. It will be accessible solely to my dissertation supervisor and myself and all data will be deleted within 1 year of completion of the research, in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Anonymity will be ensured by concealing the identity of all participants, including the School, in all documents pertaining to the research. A brief written evaluation of the research findings will

be made available to the students, their parents/guardians, the Ministry for Education and Employment and the School, after the dissertation marking process is complete.

As such, I would be very grateful if you agree, on behalf of the School, to participate in this research. Your consent is voluntary and you may choose to withdraw your consent/participation at any time. If you have any questions, kindly email me, Stephen Bezzina at s.bezzina@sms.ed.ac.uk. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Stephen Bezzina

Please fill in, mark as appropriate and sign in the space provided. A signed copy of this information and consent form will be retained by you, on behalf of the School.

I, _____, Headteacher of _____,

1. Confirm that I have read and understand the information sheet for the research and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
2. Understand that my consent is voluntary and that I can withdraw the School's participation/consent at any time, without giving reason.
3. Give my consent for the participation of the School in the above research.

Headteacher's Signature

Date

Stephen Bezzina

Date