

Information for schools

Student surveys: In year 1 (2014-2015) we would like online surveys administered to **all Year 7 and Year 8** students in their science classes, for homework in after-school time or within form time. The surveys do not have to be administered on the same day or week; we only ask that all Year 7 students complete the surveys **before October half term**; we want the survey completed before students have had much secondary chemistry/science teaching. We will use the data from the surveys to select students for interviewing. We will not administer the survey again until year 2 (2015-16) of the project. We will provide teachers with a set of brief instructions to read out to students. All answers will be confidential and if a student wants to withdraw from the study at any point, this is fine. Each survey will take on average about 30 minutes to complete. Surveys will be undertaken in years 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5.

The benefits of an online survey is that we can provide you with feedback about how your students answered much sooner (within the same term) than if you use paper-based surveys. The second benefit is that students will feel more comfortable about anonymity. Paper-based surveys cost a great deal more because of transcribing of entries and this results in errors too. Finally, this reduces the burden on teachers in collecting, collating, storing and sending back the surveys to us.

We do not expect teachers to do anything else other than spend a minute reading out a set of instructions and overseeing their class as they complete the survey.

School survey: In years 1, 3 and 5, we will collect data from participating schools via one or more teachers of chemistry per school on such things as departmental policies, CPD etc.

We will do further work with 8 selected schools, if you are chosen then we would need to do interviews and ethnography; see below what would happen for each of these.

Interviews with a small number of students: We will use the survey data to select a small number of students to interview (6 per school). We will send you this student list in February 2015 and request very basic information such as FSM and predicted grades. Using the information you give us we will select a final set of students and ask you to help organise a day we can come into school to undertake these interviews in **summer term 2015**. We will interview these same students on an annual basis in years 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Interviews with two teachers: We would like to interview two Chemistry teachers in summer term 2015. We will interview these same two teachers (or a replacement if someone leaves) on an annual basis in years 2, 3, 4 & 5.

Ethnography: We will undertake a certain amount of direct observation of chemistry lessons, out-of-school activities (e.g. science clubs, school visits) and chemistry/science departmental meetings.