



**Trinity College Dublin**

Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath

The University of Dublin

# Parent/Guardian Information Sheet

September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Your school is participating in an education project called Trinity Access 21 (TA21). This project is a collaboration between the Trinity Access Programmes, the School of Education, and the School of Computer Science & Statistics in Trinity College Dublin. The principal investigator is Professor Brendan Tangney.

## **What is it?**

TA21 aims to transform the Irish education system, in partnership with schools, communities, other education organisations and businesses, so that every student has the opportunity to reach their full educational potential. The project includes the development of three 'core practices' to encourage a strong, college-going culture in schools: Key Skills and Capabilities; Pathways to College, and Mentoring. Outcomes from phase 1 (2014 - 2017) of the TA21 project indicate it is having a very positive impact, where high aspirations are normal and there is a more active and engaged teaching and learning environment.

## **What does it involve?**

The project will take place during school time throughout the school year. During the programme, professional development workshops and seminars will be offered to staff. Members of the project team may spend time in the school delivering workshops and supporting teachers and the principal.

Training programmes may also be provided for students in relation to the development of the three core practices. These programmes will take place either in school or in Trinity College. Students will be under the supervision and guidance of adults at all times. All activities will comply with best practice in Child Protection and the policies of Trinity College in this area, as well as any relevant school policies, to ensure that students benefit from the learning opportunities in a safe and effective manner.

All TA21 staff have undergone the Garda Vetting procedures to receive clearance to work with minors. In the unlikely event that information about illegal activities should emerge during the study, the researchers will follow the school's Child Protection policy and inform the relevant authorities.

## **Research**

In order to investigate the effectiveness of the project, researchers from Trinity College will collect information about the students' learning experiences, their attitudes and aspirations, and their educational and family background. Students and teachers may be asked to complete questionnaires, feedback forms or reflections at various intervals during the project, and a sample of students and teachers will be asked to participate in interviews and focus group discussions, of no more than 30 minutes duration. The research team may ask the school for a list of participants as well as data relating to students' attainment and grades. Trinity Access aim to help empower every young person to reach their full academic potential. The research team may ask your child in 6th year if they agree to being contacted at some stage up to 2 years after they finish school. This would involve the research team asking your child about their further/ higher education or work after leaving school.

There may be lectures, Ph.D. theses, conference presentations and peer-reviewed journal articles written as a result of this project, however the students and school will not be identified.

## **Data Handling**

All information that is collected by the researchers will be anonymised and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation at Trinity College, Dublin. For the questionnaires and grade



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information, each student will be allocated a unique identification number, which will permit the researchers to track changes in engagement, but will not be able to be used to identify the student by name. Data that has been fully de-identified may also be shared with external researchers and project evaluators such as the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre at NUI Galway. A leaflet explaining this process has been enclosed with this information sheet.

### Research Consent

We wish to seek your permission for your child to participate in the research part of the programme. Participation in this part of the programme is voluntary and you may remove your child from the process at any time, for any reason, without penalty and any information already recorded about them will not be used. Should you wish your child to be omitted from the research aspect of the project, they will still participate in the programme, but none of their information will be used in the research. Full information about your data protection rights are available on this website: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/reform/rights-citizens\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/reform/rights-citizens_en).

### Images

From time to time, we may also record images and/or video of your child and their classmates and teachers at work, which might be used in communications and promotional/marketing material about the **TA21** programme, or in dissemination activities such as conference presentations. Use of video footage and images will be strictly in accordance with best practice in Child Protection policies and guidelines. Your child's name will not appear alongside any images/video footage.

Consent is being sought for the use of any individual/small group photos that include your child. Should you wish your child to be omitted from such material, they will still participate in the programme, but no images/video footage of them will be used in any dissemination, marketing or promotional materials. Crowd-based photos may be taken on the basis of public interest, without prior consent. Parents or data subjects can object to the use of images in crowd-based photos at any point in the future, by contacting us at the email address below.

Please sign below to indicate your consent and return the form to the School Principal's Office as soon as possible. If you have any questions in relation to this, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

*Brendan Tangney*

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