



6th March, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Research Study – FLASH Marking in English

We are pleased to let you know that the English Faculty has signed up to take part in a national research and development project called FLASH marking, 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 provides a series of straightforward codes to explain where pupils have done something well in English Language or English Literature and to show them areas where they can develop their learning and make further progress. The codes are used instead of grading for routine marking, although your child will still receive a grade each term for more substantial pieces of work completed in English lessons so that their progress may be tracked. The FLASH marking programme has been developed by Meols Cop High School in Southport and is designed to improve children's attainment and progress in English Language and English Literature. The coding system allows teachers to provide more frequent, individualised feedback which pupils can then act on in order to improve and develop in these subjects.

A team from Durham University is working with Meols Cop High School to study the impact of FLASH marking on children's English attainment. To enable them to do this, they will be using pupils' GCSE English grades as well as their KS2 scores, 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 will be analysed anonymously and no individual pupils or schools will be named in any report. Durham University will share this anonymised data with the Education Endowment Foundation data archive. We are keen to reiterate that this is all anonymous and no pupils are named.

We hope you will support this initiative which is aimed at increasing the frequency and impact of individualised marking. If you do not wish for us to use your child's data, you can opt out by signing the attached form and returning it to Mrs. Lamb in the Lower Site school office by 12th March. Your child will not be disadvantaged in any way. If you have further questions about the project or the evaluation, please contact me directly.

Yours sincerely

Bryan J. McCahey (Assistant Head Teacher).

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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 _____ Form _____

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

Name of parent/carer: _____

Relationship to child: _____

