

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR FAMILIES**  
**REC Reference Number: PNM/11/12-142**

**Understanding and influencing pupils' choices as they prepare to leave school**

We would like to invite you to participate in this original research project. You should only participate if you want to. If you do take part you are free to withdraw until 1<sup>st</sup> December 2013 (when we will begin to prepare findings for publication) without giving any reason. Your decision not to take part in this study will not affect your involvement with TEDS. Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If you have any questions then please feel free to contact us by email or on our Freephone number.

**What is the study about?**

The aim of the study is to learn more about the experiences in school and elsewhere that influence young people's decisions, achievements and general well-being as they come to the end of their compulsory education.

**Who have we asked to participate?**

We have invited all TEDS families with identical twins to participate in this new study of environmental influences on the transition out of compulsory education. Other than being a family with identical twins there are no restrictions on taking part in this study.

**How do we take part?**

If you agree to take part in this study we will ask each of you to complete and return a questionnaire that asks about differences between the twins in terms of achievements, wellbeing, aspirations, plans and experiences.

Included in this pack are three questionnaires, one for each twin and one for a parent/guardian. If you agree to participate you may return the completed questionnaires to us in the freepost envelope enclosed. Submission of a completed questionnaire implies your consent to participate. Any combination of questionnaires can be returned but it will be most helpful to our research if all three are completed. If there are any questions that you would prefer not to answer then please feel free to leave them blank.

**Are there any risks involved in participating?**

The research entails no risks beyond those of ordinary life.

**Are there any benefits involved in participating?**

At the conclusion of the project we will publish our most significant findings on the TEDS website so that you can access them ([www.teds.ac.uk](http://www.teds.ac.uk)). We will also use the website to alert you to any research publications we have generated from the project.

As a token of our appreciation we will send your family a £15 Love2Shop voucher when we receive all three completed questionnaires. We will also enter every family that returns all three completed questionnaires (one from a parent/guardian and one from each twin) into a prize draw. The winning family will receive a pair of iPad3s, one for each twin.

### **How will we maintain your privacy and confidentiality?**

All information we receive from your family is strictly confidential. You are identified only by a number in the study datasets. Identifiable data will only be accessed by authorised members of the TEDS team and stored in a separate secure location. The data your family provides will be kept for a minimum of 10 years after completion of the TEDS study, as recommended by the Medical Research Council (MRC). TEDS data are sometimes shared with other researchers, but only after removing identifying information about the participants. We will not pass your family's information on to any other organisations. The data may be retained for use in future studies subject to further ethical approval.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is being organised by Dr Kathryn Asbury, working with Professor Robert Plomin of the TEDS study. The study is being funded by the Nuffield Foundation.

### **Do you have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do take part, you are free to withdraw yourself and your data without giving a reason. Your decision not to take part in this study will not affect your future involvement with TEDS.

### **Queries?**

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call us (Dr Kathryn Asbury, Professor Robert Plomin and the TEDS team) on our freephone line 0800 317 029, or email us at [teds-project@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:teds-project@kcl.ac.uk).

### **Thank you from all at TEDS!**

If this study has harmed you in any way you can contact King's College London by post: Dr Kathryn Asbury/Professor Robert Plomin, TEDS (PO60), King's College London, De Crespigny Park, London, SE5 8AF; by email or by telephone. .