



University of
Nottingham
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Observatory for
Mathematical
Education

Dear Headteacher

I am writing to invite your school to join the largest ever longitudinal study of mathematics education in England as a Research Partner School of the Observatory for Mathematical Education.

The Observatory, based at the University of Nottingham, is conducting three Cohort Studies (Primary, Secondary and Further/Higher) to explore learner attitudes, teacher practices, and other factors that influence engagement and attainment. Our analyses will support policymakers, headteachers like yourself, and curriculum leaders to improve learner outcomes in mathematics.

The Secondary Cohort Study will follow around 30,000 pupils over seven years as they progress through 150 secondary schools. Participation in this prestigious research is by invitation only and your school has been selected following a careful sampling process.

The key features of each annual cycle of the research programme are pupil surveys following the same group of children from Year 7 in 2024/25 until they leave in Year 11 or 13, and short surveys for teachers of mathematics and curriculum leaders. In schools with post-16 provision, A-level Mathematics students will be surveyed in Year 12 (2025) and Year 13 (2026). Further information is attached.

As a Research Partner School you will receive £1000 per annum to support mathematics teaching and learning in your school. You will receive annual, anonymised cohort study reports, and we intend to build a data dashboard that will enable you to explore data from schools like yours.



Please use this QR Code to register your response – whether yes or no or to request further details.

Many things are asked of schools, so we are grateful for your consideration. We are also sending a copy of this letter via email and would appreciate hearing back from you within two weeks.

I hope that we can welcome you as a Research Partner School very soon.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Andrew Noyes

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