

SOUTHEND HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

ACADEMY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prittlewell Chase, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS0 0RG
(01702) 606200 enquiries@shsb.org.uk www.shsb.org.uk

Headteacher: Mrs R V Worth



12 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Research Consent Form (REC Reference Number: ETH2425-1988)

I am writing to you to seek your consent for your child to take part in a study which I am undertaking. This study is part of my PhD research, and it explores recursion as a Threshold Concept for novice computer science students, and how their understanding changes when it is taught. The research will offer teaching recommendations, inform computer science curricula, and enhance our understanding of how students learn recursion.

Your child has been invited to participate in this research as a Key Stage 5 student studying computer science. Participation in the study is voluntary, and your child can choose not to participate in part or all of the project. Your child or you on their behalf can withdraw from the study without being penalised or disadvantaged in any way.

By agreeing to participate in this study, your child will be invited to take part in three short interviews/activities conducted over the course of about five months. These will take place at three key points in time:

- First interview – before your child is formally taught recursion in class
- Second interview – during or just after the topic has been taught (within a week or two)
- Third interview – several weeks later (around 4 to 8 weeks after the first interview)

At each of these timepoints, participants will be asked to take part in a short interview and complete a few tasks related to their understanding of recursion. These activities are designed to explore how their understanding develops over time and how students feel about learning this topic.

Each session will take between 20 and 50 minutes and will happen during lunchtime in H6 or a suitable computer room in Term 1 and Term 2 (September 2025 – March 2026). I'll be there to guide and supervise each session, so students will have support throughout.

Please note that where the number of students who choose to participate in the study exceeds capacity (6 – 10 students), a random name selector will be used to select students.

As a thank-you for their time and contribution, all students who take part will be invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch (pizza) in H6 after the last interview.

City St George's, University of London is the sponsor and the data controller of this study based in the United Kingdom. This means that they are responsible for looking after your child's information and using it properly. The legal basis under which their data will be processed is City St Georges' public task.



Please see attached Information Sheet with further information about the study.

Please complete the form using the following link to indicate whether you would like your child to participate in this research by Friday 28th November –

https://cityunilondon.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5joacxzEQ3tbSeO .

Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nzemeke

