

## **Parent information sheet**

### **What is it about?**

We would like to invite all TEDS families to participate in this new study. The aim of the study is to assess learning and cognitive abilities, school performance, wellbeing and home and school environments so that we can understand the changing importance of the factors that influence development. As your teenagers have now completed their final compulsory school year, this is a particularly important stage of the longitudinal TEDS project.

### **How do we take part?**

The internet-based measures you and your twins have helped us pioneer have been such a success that this phase of the study is entirely online. We have provided you with a parent login, so that you can provide consent for your family to take part in this study. Once you have done this, your teenagers will be able to use their own logins to access their web activities. If they wish they may log in on more than one occasion to complete them. The web activities will be available from now until the end of December 2010.

The web activities include some questionnaires for your teenagers. If you would like to preview these questionnaires, you may do so using the links below. Please note that these are read-only versions, which you will not be able to fill in for yourself.

- About You [link]
- Your School [link]
- Your Family and Friends [link]
- More About You [link]

### **Thanks**

As a token of our appreciation we will send each of your teenagers a **£10 voucher** once their web activities are completed. The voucher will be either Love2shop or iTunes, depending on which they would prefer.

In addition to the vouchers, we will hold a **prize draw** each month. Your teenagers will receive a prize draw entry for every activity they have completed so far; both will win a prize if either of them is drawn. They will also receive a bonus entry to the prize draw once they have completed all of the web activities. We will hold 4 prize draws at roughly monthly intervals, and all entries so far will be included in all of the remaining prize draws. Prize draws will take place in October, November and December. The dates will be advertised on our website. There will be 30 prizes each month **including iPads, iPods, and iTunes vouchers worth £50 and £25.**

### **What happens to the results of the findings of the research study?**

The findings will be published in scientific journals, and also made available on our web site after the completion of the study. Your family's information will be kept **strictly confidential and anonymous.**

### **Data, confidentiality, and secure storage**

All the data that your family provides are **strictly confidential**; your twins are identified only by a number in the study datasets. The data will be kept for a minimum of 10 years after completion of the TEDS study, as recommended by our funding body the Medical Research Council (MRC). The 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. You are free to opt out of the study at any stage without giving a reason; data already collected will be stored anonymously, but no further data will be collected.

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

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

### **Queries**

If you have any questions please email us at [teds-project@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:teds-project@kcl.ac.uk), call us on FREEPHONE 0800 317029 or write to us at TEDS, PO83, FREEPOST LON7567, LONDON SE5 8YZ

Although we have no reason to think that taking part in this study will confer any risks at all, we are legally required to say that if this study has harmed you in any way you can contact King's College London using these same contact details for further advice and information.

**A big thank you and best wishes from the TEDS team**