



# WALTON HIGH

*Leading Learning*

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Principal – Brooklands Andrew Bennett  
Principal – Walnut Tree Sharon Alexander

Executive Principal Michelle Currie

Chair of Governors Ayser Asif  
Business Manager Sukh Singh

16 December 2021

Dear Parent

## Re: Relevance Project (Year 8)

Walton High is working with “The Raspberry Pi Foundation” within the National Centre for Computing Education on a project funded by the Department for Education. Together, we are exploring ways of engaging more female pupils in computing in order to increase the number of girls who select computer science at GCSE and A level. It has been suggested that addressing this issue early in a child’s education is important. In this project, we are aiming to trial some resources that link computing to real-world problems to increase girls’ engagement in lessons.

### How does this relate to my child?

Walton High is participating in this project. This means that your child will be involved in the project unless you choose to opt out on their behalf (see below). If you are happy for your child to take part in the project, you do not have to do anything, and they will be automatically included in the project.

### What will my child do in the project?

The project will run over a 12-week period between January and April 2022. Your child will participate in computing lessons as usual. As part of the project, all pupils will be asked to complete a short survey at the beginning and end of the 12-week period. Teachers will deliver computing lessons by linking tasks to real-world problems, which has been found to be engaging in computing and other subjects. Although the research relates to girls’ engagement, the intervention and resources can be used with both girls and boys. This project has been designed accounting for the current context that schools face during the global pandemic. All lessons will be conducted in line with the school’s health and safety policies.

### What questions will my child answer in the survey?

Before and after the 12-week project, your child will fill in a survey about their attitudes towards computing. The survey questions will ask about their attitudes and confidence, rather than more personal information such as their marks. For example, questions might include ‘Are you good with computers?’ and not ‘What marks do you get?’. As part of the survey, we will collect your child’s name, date of birth, and sex. This is so that we can compare the surveys at the start and end of the project to see if the intervention has made a difference to their attitudes towards computing.

### What will happen to my child’s data?

We will be using legitimate interests as the lawful basis for processing your child’s data. All data collected in this project will be stored in line with the National Centre for Computing Education’s Privacy Policy. The Department for Education will be data controller of personal data of pupils obtained from schools. They will share personal data with trusted processors (such as the evaluation team, partners, transcribers, and research assistants) solely for the purposes of proper delivery, management, and evaluation of the project. The Behavioural Insights Team will be data controllers for survey data collected from pupils and any qualitative data collected through interviews with teachers and/or pupils.

All parties, barring the evaluation team, will securely delete all personal data within 6 months of project completion. The Behavioural Insights Team will retain the data until June 2023 to permit further analysis.

Your child's data will be treated with the strictest confidence and will be transferred securely and saved in secure locations only accessible by the project team in line with GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. NCEE will not use children's or school names in any report or reports arising from this project.

If you have any queries about how your child's data will be handled, please contact the Behavioural Insights Team Data Protection Officer at [dpo@bi.team](mailto:dpo@bi.team), or the National Centre for Computing Education Data Protection Officer at [datasecurity@stem.org.uk](mailto:datasecurity@stem.org.uk).

**What if I don't want my child to take part in the research?**

Your child's participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you can opt out of having any data collected about your child as part of the project. Your child will still participate in all computing lessons as usual, but no data about them will be collected or stored. If you wish to opt out of the project, please complete the form below and return it to your child's school by 10 January 2022.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Ms S Edike  
Subject Leader - Computer Science/IT

**If you DO NOT want your child's data to be collected as part of the Relevance project, please complete the following form and return it to your child's school by 10 January 2022.**

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I have read and understood the information sheet provided and **DO NOT** wish for my child's data to be collected and analysed as part of the project.

**Name:**.....

**Signature:**.....

**Child's name:**.....

**Date:**.....