

ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT:

To investigate the effect on student motivation of employer supported learning and assessment activities.

Project leader: Karen Scott

Dear Student

You are invited to participate in a research project, led by Karen Scott, who intends to investigate the use of assessment methods that are competitive, employer driven and employer supported and the effect of this type of assessment on student motivation.

The target group for this action research project are 2nd year BTEC Level 3 students of IT at Mid Kent College of HFE in Medway, specifically the Chrome and Firefox groups.

The purpose of this research is to help improve assessment practice on this study programme to make it more relevant to the workplace and to observe the effect of this assessment practice on student motivation levels.

I understand what the research is about Y/N

Why be involved?

Although the findings of this action research project are intended to help improve practice at Mid Kent College for future students, it is hoped that the participants will benefit from taking part in an assessment exercise that will have close links to employers and a competitive element and that this may stretch and challenge all participants.

I understand why I am taking part in this project Y/N

What will participation involve?

In the first instance you will be asked to complete this survey which will ask for your informed consent to participation in the study. You will then be asked to take part in a focus group where you will be asked to participate in discussion based around a set of pre-designed questions. The purpose of this focus group will be to collect information on current levels of motivation in relation to assessment on the BTEC Level 3 IT programme. Focus group discussions and all participation in assessment activities related to this project will take place in normal lesson time. You will be asked to verify my interpretation of your contributions.

Data will be collected and recorded relating to the number of assignments you have handed in by the deadline and your current level of attainment. Further data will be collected at the end of the project in relation to the meeting of deadlines during the project and the level of attainment gained in project activities.

Finally, a recorded, 30 minute, focus group meeting will explore issues arising from the previous activities and revised opinions on motivation levels relating to the assignment. Again, you will be asked to verify my interpretation of your contributions.

I understand what I will be asked to do as part of this project Y/N

Will the data collected about me in the study be confidential?

A coding system will be used to refer to the data for individuals so that no names are displayed against any part of the collected data or analysis. The results of the research will be reported both within the college, to emCETT who are supporting the project, to the Education and Training Foundation who have funded the project, and in the wider community. No student names will be included in any part of the public report.

Electronic data, as well as any data recorded on paper, will be kept on college computer equipment which will be accessed both at college and at my home. At the start of the process all participants will be given a code which will be kept on paper on my desk in the IT staffroom (C302). All references in all materials will use this code so that no material being used away from college has any real names included.

I am confident that the confidentiality of data relating to me will be upheld Y/N

Will I be committed to the full term of the project?

You can remove yourself from the target group at any time during the study but not from the assessment. I very much hope that you will feel able to be part of the whole process but if, for any reason, you feel that you need to pull out, please let me know as soon as possible.

I hope that you will feel that you can comfortably take part in this research and I look forward to working with you.

I understand that I can remove myself from the research project but not from the assessment, which is a requirement for completion of my course Y/N

Consent:

Name		Group	
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I confirm that I give my informed consent to participation in this project and that I understand what is required of participants in this study.

Signed		Date	
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