



University of Brighton

Participation Information Sheet: STUDENTS

Research Project: To what extent do AI-based marking and feedback tools reduce teachers' time spent on marking, without negatively impacting feedback quality or teachers' confidence?

We would like to invite you to take part in our research project. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take the time to read this information sheet. Talk to others about the study if you wish and contact the research team if anything is unclear. You will be given time to think about whether you wish to take part. You can keep this information sheet.

What is the purpose of the study/project?

You are invited to take part in a pilot study of a new browser-based coding tool called Kita. The study aims to investigate how smart computer tools in the form of Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help with teaching and learning in secondary schools. The work is funded by the Government's Department for Education and is being trialled in Y10 Computing classes in your school over about 3-4 weeks during June and July 2026.

Kita is a coding platform used for Computing lessons. It is a shared workspace where the teacher can see your code as you write it and monitor the class's progress.

Researchers from the University of Brighton are evaluating the AI-based tool. In particular, we want to find out if it reduces the time teachers spend on marking/feedback. We also want to know if it has an effect on the quality of teachers' feedback to students and teachers' confidence. We are also interested in the experience of using the tool – what is it like, from students' perspectives.

Why have you been invited to take part?

You have been asked to take part because you are in a Computing class that is piloting Kita Education's AI-based tool.

- We would like to speak to a group of young people in your class, to find out what it's like to be in a class which is using Kita, and to ask your opinions. **We are asking for your permission to take part in a group discussion, which will be audio-recorded.** This discussion will last c. 30 minutes.
- Researchers will observe a single class in which Kita is being used. This might be your class. The observation will focus on the teacher and their use of Kita's tool and will not directly involve you.

Do I have to take part?

No. If you agree to take part, you will also be asked to complete a consent form to confirm that you understand what is involved.

Can I change their mind about taking part?

Yes, you can stop taking part at any time and without giving a reason. This will have no impact on you and all the data collected from them will be deleted. If this is more than two weeks after the focus group discussion, deleting the information may be more difficult and we may say that withdrawal is not possible.

What will happen if I take part?

Researchers will arrange a time to speak with a group of about 6-10 students during the school day. With your agreement, we will audio-record the conversation. Classroom observations will not be recorded but researchers may take notes of what they notice – focusing on the teacher and the AI-tool.

Will I be reimbursed for taking part?

You will not be reimbursed for taking part. This is because you will be taking part during the school day, and because your school has agreed to take part in the Kita pilot.

What are the benefits and potential disadvantages of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits for anyone taking part in the research project. It may be interesting for you to discuss their views and experiences of AI in education. We do not anticipate any risks to you in taking part in this study.

How will my information be managed?

The University of Brighton has overall responsibility for this study and is the Data Controller of your personal information, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it appropriately. We manage research data strictly in accordance with ethical requirements and data protection law.

Research data will be used only for the purposes of the study. To safeguard your rights in relation to your personal information, we will use the minimum possible amount of personally-identifiable information and control access to that data.

Security and access controls

Research data will only be accessible to the research team. We will hold hard copies of consent forms in locked cabinets at the university, and electronic data in password-protected secure university OneDrive.

We will type up the focus group discussions. We will remove or change information which could identify you (e.g. your name, the name of your school). Information which has not been anonymised will be accessed and used only by appropriate, authorised individuals and when this is necessary for the purposes of the research or another purpose identified in the Privacy Notice.

Retention of research data

Copies of signed consent forms will be kept after completion of the research, so that we have records of how we conducted the research and who took part. The only personal information in this documentation will be your name and signature, and we will not be able to link this to any anonymised research data. Research data is normally held for a minimum of 10 years.

What will happen to the results of the project?

Research findings will be written up as a research report, which will be publicly available and shared with schools that took part (without identifying individuals who took part). We will write up the findings for publication in an academic journal. We may also present results at education conferences.

What if I have a question or concern?

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Dr Catherine Aicken, Senior Research Fellow, c.aicken@brighton.ac.uk. If you have any concerns about the study should be directed to Prof Michael Jopling, m.jopling@brighton.ac.uk. If your concerns have not been answered by Prof Jopling, you can contact Lucy Redhead, Chair of the Cross-School Ethics Committee using L.Redhead@brighton.ac.uk.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed and given a favorable ethical opinion by the University of Brighton Cross-School Research Ethics Committee.