



Calculus for Kids

Information Sheet for Pupils

Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research study about using your laptop for learning some specialist mathematics. The study is being conducted by Andrew Fluck and Dev Ranmuthugala from the University of Tasmania.

1. The study is looking at how your personal computer (netbook or laptop) can help you solve everyday problems using special mathematics software. We will give you the software and show you how it works.
2. You are eligible to participate in this study because your school has a program where every student in your class has a computer.
3. Participation in this study will consist of involvement in 13 lessons conducted by a teacher we have trained in the special mathematics and software. You will have a chance to learn about calculus, a very powerful way of solving everyday problems. The software will do most of the complicated work for you, but you will need to tell it exactly what to do! At the end of the lessons, we will ask you to solve some problems using your new skills and software – this will take about 45 minutes.

It is important that you understand that your involvement in this study is voluntary. While we would be pleased to have you participate, we respect your right to decline. There will be no consequences to you if you decide not to participate, and this will not affect your schooling. If you decide to discontinue participation at any time, you may do so without providing an explanation. All information will be treated in a confidential manner, and your name will not be used in any publication arising out of the research. All the research data will be kept in a locked cabinet in the office of Dr. Andrew Fluck.

4. It is possible that you will become more interested in professions such as Engineering through participation. We would be keen to hear from you or your parents/guardians if anything like this happens. Also, we would like to track your mathematical skills in the future by accessing your NAPLAN numeracy results.

5. There are no specific risks anticipated with participation in this study. However, if you find that you are becoming distressed you will be advised to receive support from your regular teacher.
6. If you would like to discuss any aspect of this study please feel free to contact either Dr. Fluck on ph (03) 6324 3284 (e-mail Andrew.Fluck@utas.edu.au) or Professor Ranmuthugala on ph (03) 6324 9474 (e-mail D.Ranmuthugala@amc.edu.au). Either of us would be happy to discuss any aspect of the research with you. Once we have analysed the information we will be mailing / emailing you a summary of our findings. You are welcome to contact us at that time to discuss any issue relating to the research study.

This study has been approved by the Tasmanian Social Science Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study should contact the Executive Officer of the HREC (Tasmania) Network on (03) 6226 7479 or email human.ethics@utas.edu.au. The Executive Officer is the person nominated to receive complaints from research participants. You will need to quote H10959.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this study.
If you wish to take part in it, please sign the attached consent form.
This information sheet is for you to keep.

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