

Friday 6th February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to let you know that Year 8 students will soon have the opportunity to take part in an exciting research project in partnership with the University of Bath. The study, led by PhD researcher Beth Morillo-Hall and supervised by Professor Tiffany Taylor, is titled *“Investigating the most effective methods of teaching evolution in the classroom.”*

The aim of this research is to explore how hands-on, practical teaching activities can help students better understand the topic of evolution. As part of the project, students will take part in a practical science activity using safe, classroom-appropriate genetically modified bacteria—allowing them to see evolution happening in real time.

All participating students will complete a short online, story-based assessment before and after the lesson. A follow-up assessment will take place later in the year to better understand how well students remember what they have learned.

The University of Bath has provided full training and all required resources, and the study has received ethical approval from their Social Sciences Research Ethics Committee (Reference: 9087-11221). All data collected will be kept strictly confidential, used only for research purposes, and stored securely in accordance with UK data protection laws.

No identifying information will appear in any reports or publications.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Students will benefit from hands-on practical activities based on cutting-edge research, which will enhance their science literacy, increase engagement, and help develop their skills in scientific inquiry and practice.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no disadvantages to your child taking part in the project. However, they may opt out of the study at any point should they choose to. If you **do not** wish for your child’s assessment data to be used in the study, please contact Mrs Martin on rmartin.trafalgar@salterns.org before **Friday 13th February 2026**.

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Mrs Martin, who will provide further information.

Thank you for your support in offering our Year 8 students the chance to engage in real scientific research.

Yours sincerely

Rhiannon Martin
Head of Science