**Study Information Sheet – Pupils/Participants**

Dear Junior Academy / Junior Academy Sports Participant,

As part of the Junior Academy/Junior Academy Sports Programme we are wishing to complete a study to find out about your thoughts about school, what you might like to do for future study, your thoughts about attending Higher Education/University in the future.

We would like to ask your permission to take part in the survey and, by extension, the Junior Academy programme. The survey is an essential part of the Junior Academy programme, and you will not be able to participate in the programme without completing it. We will also request your parent(s)/guardian(s) permission to take part.

The study will be completed throughout the JA/JASP to find out your thoughts and what is important to you over the course of the programme.

Your answers to the questionnaires will let us understand decisions pupils make about their future and the research findings will allow us to better understand the thoughts and intentions of young people who complete the survey.

The questionnaire should take about 20 minutes to complete. The questionnaire will be distributed once annually for completion; for Junior Academy at the start of Year 9, at the end of the year 10, at the start of Year 11 and at the end of Year 12. During Junior Academy Sports, the questionnaire will be distributed at the following points; at the beginning of Year 8, at the end of Year 9 and at the start and end of Year 10. Each year pupil responses will be gathered together and reported as a group with no individual names mentioned. The answers you give to the questionnaire will be anonymised (your name taken out) before the reports are written at the end of each year.

As part of this study we will be recruiting 2 groups of pupils. After the recruitment process has completed, successful participants will be randomly selected to be part of Group A or Group B having completed the online application form.

Group A

Will participate in the programme by completing the questionnaire and will receive a £20 voucher for participation having completed both questionnaires. They will not attend Junior Academy events, but contribute to the programme through their responses to the survey and providing valuable insights into young people’s thoughts about their future.

Group B

Will also be asked to complete the questionnaire. Group B will be invited to attend Junior Academy events. They will not, however, receive a voucher for completing the questionnaire. The information they provide will also be of great value to help us find out young people’s thoughts about their future.

If you are happy to take part in this study, please indicate your consent in the relevant area of this application form.

If you take part in the study Queen’s University Belfast are committed to protecting your personal data.

You can also decide at any time not to continue with the study and no further questionnaires will be sent to you. We have given your parents/guardians further details of how to do this.

The main contact for the study will be Phil Stewart - Outreach Officer, Widening Participation Unit (WPU), Queen’s University. The Widening Participation Outreach Assistant and Project Co-Investigator will also have access to the responses you provide. The overall study findings may be shared with other interested parties within the Widening Participation Unit, and inside and outside of Queen’s University but you will not be named.

If you have any other questions or would like to find out more please contact me at phil.stewart@qub.ac.uk

I look forward to meeting you as part of the Junior Academy experience and thank you for your assistance with this research.

Kind Regards,

Phil Stewart – Outreach Officer Queen’s Junior Academy