Dear Colleague

We are pleased to launch the Online Pupil Survey (OPS) -2020 Home version for pupils in years 4 - 13. This is a special edition of the Oxfordshire Online Pupil Survey, which has been quickly adapted in response to the current COVID-19 challenges by researchers at the University of Oxford, and extended to the surrounding counties who usually run similar surveys. The questions address the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on wellbeing and learning, and pupils can be invited to login either at school or at home. We will also make the results available to participating schools as quickly as possible, to inform schools about the needs and experiences of their pupils during these uncertain times.

The OPS provides an important picture of the needs of children and young people. We hope to provide a comprehensive picture of how the pandemic has impacted pupils’ wellbeing. This will help schools and local services to ensure that the resources available can be targeted at areas of most need. The questions in the survey address a range of issues relevant to well-being and how this has been affected by lockdown and isolation.

The Primary, Secondary, and the Year 12/FE surveys differ slightly and are age appropriate, approved by the University of Oxford Research Ethics Committee. The survey is designed to be engaging and easy for pupils to use, takes most pupils about 30 minutes, and can be comfortably fitted into a (remote or in-school) lesson period. Participating schools/colleges will receive their own results from July 2020, which can be compared with the county averages from this year and last year.

The Online Pupil Survey 2020 Home Edition will be live for schools to access from May-June 2020, but we are hoping that most schools will invite pupils to take part in May. If you would like to participate, please send out the university approved information to parents and students one week before inviting pupils to log-in, and give parents of pupils under 16 the opportunity to let you know if they don’t want their child to participate.

If you are interested in taking part, please could you complete the online sign-up form (https://oxonopsmonitor.fabsurveys.co.uk/SchoolsAdmin/SchoolSignUpForm) or email paule@fabresearch.com providing a contact name, email, telephone number and which school/college you represent. We will then send more detailed information for schools and parents, you will be able to see the survey, and we will be running (virtual) information sessions as needed.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Godsell
Public Health and Wellbeing Division, South Gloucestershire County Council
Email: sarah.godsell@southglos.gov.uk

Karen Mansfield and Mina Fazel
University of Oxford Department of Psychiatry,
Email: Pathfinder@psych.ox.ac.uk