Imperial College London have developed a “Citizen Science” Engagement project which they will be piloting at our school, commencing <date>.

The Antibiotic Citizen Engagement (ACE) project, aims to give students the opportunity to act as researchers, or “Citizen Scientists”, collecting survey data on a free app, called Epicollect, which has been used for hundreds of other research projects across the world.

The aim of the ACE project is to collect information about public understanding and behaviours in relation to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the UK. The survey, which is also available in paper form for those without a device, asks a number of questions about how people access antibiotics, use them and dispose of them. The survey is conducted anonymously meaning answers cannot be linked to individuals.

This resulting survey information will be helpful in enabling Imperial College researchers to understand what people do with their antibiotics, how they get them and what they know about drug-resistant infections. This will help them understand what areas further research needs to focus on and how to design better public information about antimicrobial resistance.

Your child will be invited to participate in the ACE project as a Citizen Scientist following a presentation by researchers from Imperial College at the school. They will have an ACE booklet which explains the full background to the study and approximately two weeks during which time they can collect survey data.

* **Your child does not have to take part in this project if they do not wish to. An opt out slip can be found at the bottom of his letter.**
* **If they are participating, they may ask your permission to install the free epicollect app on a device to enable them to do so, although a paper version is also available.**
* **If they are participating children may ask you the survey questions and ask you to help them identify others whom they can approach.**
* **Children will have been instructed that the survey is only to be used with friends, family, known neighbours and the members of any sporting, social or religious communities with which they have a connection whom you approve.**
* **It is NOT the intention that this survey should be conducted with strangers.**

Following completion of the survey, the team from Imperial College will return to the school to present the results and to speak more widely about antimicrobial resistance.

There are no payments for taking part in the ACE project either as a Citizen Scientist or as a survey respondent.

If you would like to support your child in participating in this project, please allow them to download the app if you have a device and respond to the survey questions should they ask you to.

You can also support them by suggesting other people they might survey. Although there is no minimum age for inclusion several questions will not be relevant to those under 16.

Should you have any questions or concerns please contact XXX who is the co-ordinating teacher.

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OPT OUT SLIP FOR THOSE **NOT** WISHING THEIR CHILD TO PARTICPATE

Child’s name...................................................................................................

Class..............................................................................................................

I do not wish my child to participate in the Antibiotic Citizen Science project

Parent/guardian signature................................................................................