

**Newsletter Issue 2 – April 2020**

**Update – Covid-19 Hiatus**

We hope this newsletter finds you well in these challenging times. With the closure of schools due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the FUEL study has paused recruitment and data collection in schools. We hope to resume activities in September 2020, depending on how the situation progresses. During this unexpected hiatus, the FUEL study team have been busy sorting through and analysing the data already collected, as well as preparing for the future of the study, including the next round of recruitment and beyond.

So far 24 schools have agreed to take part in the study, with data collection completed or underway in 12 of those schools. Five more data collection sessions had been scheduled but had to be postponed due to the Covid-19 situation. We are looking forward to being able to rearrange those sessions with schools when this becomes possible. To date, 837 pupils have participated. This is a great response which means that we are on target to meet our aim of recruiting almost two thousand pupils across 44 schools.

Survey completion for staff, key information and parent surveys is lower than expected, but we understand that people have been busy and also pre-occupied with the current global situation. Over the coming weeks, the team will be asking relevant school staff to complete outstanding surveys and/or send a reminder to relevant parents, should they have capacity to do so. Any additional completed surveys will be a huge help when the next phase of the study begins as it will mean we are better able to concentrate on creating specific reports for schools in which data collection is complete.

Many thanks to all schools, pupils and parents who are taking part in and supporting this study.

Everybody in the FUEL team would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people that continue to go to work so that the rest of us can be safe. We will continue to work hard on the study and will be ready for when everything returns to normal. We hope you stay well, and we look forward to working with you all again as soon as it safe and appropriate to do so.

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For information about the study visit our [website](https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/applied-health/research/chronic-disease-epidemiology-and-management/fuel-study.aspx) or watch our short [video](https://biteable.com/watch/fuel-study-for-schools-2419604) (not compatible with Internet Explorer).

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