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Dear NAME

We are delighted to write to you about an opportunity to work with our Epistemic Insight Initiative (EII), for which Professor Berry Billingsley and I will lead research in schools at Key Stage 2 over the next two years. The aim of the initiative is to encourage students to think about questions – including Big Questions – from cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary perspectives. Taking part in Epistemic Insight would be a great opportunity for introducing engaging learning activities that will develop students' disciplinary knowledge and enrich your school's curriculum.

The work we do in LASAR is part of a research and outreach activities of Epistemic Insight Initiative. Epistemic insight – or 'knowledge about knowledge' – refers to students' capacities to think about how knowledge is formed and tested in different subjects. To date, research looking at how school students' epistemic insight develops has mostly focussed on individual subjects. At LASAR, we are particularly interested in researching and developing students' ability to think about Big Questions that span science, religion and the wider humanities. The work we do in schools informs our published research, and by taking part in this project you will help us to test the hypothesis that epistemic insight can improve attitudes to learning.

Epistemic Insight Initiative involves teachers from multiple subjects working together to develop students' epistemic insight and expressed curiosity in Big Questions using pedagogical tools and strategies, which are aimed at bridging subject compartments. For example, the 'discipline wheel' involves students thinking about a question from the perspective of two or more subject areas. Examining a question such as 'why did the Titanic sink?' from both a scientific and an historical perspective could help students better understand how knowledge is formed and tested in each of these subjects and how these ways of knowing interact. To see how this example could work in your classroom, and for further examples of the pedagogical tools we have developed, see The Epistemic Insight Framework for Key Stage 1-2 booklet attached.

At this stage of the project, we are keen to bring interested schools on board so that we can start to discuss how the project could work for the school and share examples of the workshops and resources we've developed. During terms one and two (2019-20) we will

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conduct preliminary research and pilot some learning activities with teachers and students. Because the focus of the project is encouraging teachers from multiple subjects to work together to create more joined-up learning spaces, we are keen to secure the involvement of teachers who teach different subjects in each of the schools that participate.

Below, I include more detailed information on the research that we will carry out with participating schools in the initial phase of the project during terms one and two, as well as the relevant permissions we will need for each component of this. I also attach a copy of the information sheet that we will send out parents/carers of participating students. Each participating school will receive a contribution towards survey administration costs and travel for conferences and continuing professional development. I am happy to discuss further when it is necessary.

As well as in the booklet attached, you can find more information on the Epistemic Insight Initiative of LASAR, Canterbury Christ Church, including learning resources and examples of the pedagogical tools and strategies we have developed, on our websites. Please see: [www.LASARcentre.com](http://www.LASARcentre.com); [www.epistemicinsight.com](http://www.epistemicinsight.com); [www.neverofftopic.com](http://www.neverofftopic.com)

If you are interested to find out more about Epistemic Insight Initiative and how it might benefit your students and your school, please do get in touch. I would be happy to arrange a visit to discuss the project further and I could bring printed copies of booklets and posters to share.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Manzoorul Abedin

### Research and permissions required for terms one and two of the project

Study component	Permission(s) required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interview with teachers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teacher only</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study in school involving teacher(s) and the researcher/s, comprising:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ an observation of classroom discussion; and</li> <li>○ student surveys</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head teacher and teacher</li> <li>• Information letter for parents/carers with optional opt-out. Students opting out of data collection still take part in the activity but their comments will not be recorded</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interviews with a sample of students (up to 10)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opt-out form for parents/carers of selected students</li> </ul>