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Dear Parent/Carer

I am pleased to write to you with details of an exciting project allowing students studying A level physics to work with professional astronomers at the University of Sussex. This is a unique opportunity that we are sure will:

- develop students' skills and understanding of the physical world
- inspire students to follow a career in physical sciences or mathematics at university
- enhance UCAS applications to make them stand out
- be fun!

Working together, we have developed a project to use both the University's own large telescope, situated in Chelwood Gate, and the Sackville Observatory to gather data on the magnitude of variable stars. Students will attend a launch event at the University on **Friday 9th November 2018 from 1.30pm-5.30pm** and return there in the late spring to analyse their data with professional guidance.

Data will be collected by observing using the telescopes during some clear evenings; I anticipate around three visits to Chelwood Gate, with other observations at our own observatory when time allows. Not all students need attend all sessions and data from other interested parties will be used to complete the data set. Further details of times and dates will be issued when finalised and, of course, will be weather dependent.

Students will travel by school minibus to the launch event and there will be no charge for this visit. Insurance for all school trips is arranged through West Sussex County Council. Full details of the policy can be found on our website at <https://sackville.w-sussex.sch.uk/parents/school-trip-insurance/>.
Peanuts or peanut related products are not allowed to be taken on any school visit.

We will use the emergency contact details we have on our database for your child for this trip. If however, the contact details will be different for the duration of this trip, please fill in the details on the attached slip.

If you would like your child to be part of the project, please complete the attached form and return to Mr S Bush by **Monday 5th November 2018**.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Bush
Science Teacher/Leader of Professional Learning



To: Mr S Bush

Name of student _____

I give permission for my child to participate in the astronomy project and to attend the launch event at the University of Sussex on Friday 9th November.

Emergency contact telephone number _____

Emergency contact name (please print) _____

Parent/Carer name (please sign) _____

Parent/Carer name (please print) _____

Date _____

