



10th September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are writing to inform you that, as part of our commitment to supporting your child's learning, all Year 7 students will be taking the New Group Reading Test (NGRT), **starting on the 16th of September**. Below is some important information regarding the test and its purpose.

What is NGRT?

The New Group Reading Test (NGRT) is a formative assessment designed to measure students' reading abilities. "Formative" means that it does not contribute to any final grade, but instead helps us understand your child's current reading level in comparison to the national average. This information allows us to identify students who may benefit from additional support or who are ready for more advanced learning. The test may be administered again later in the year to monitor progress and assess the effectiveness of any interventions.

The NGRT is a short multiple-choice test that involves tasks such as sentence completion and reading comprehension. It has been developed to reflect current language and teaching methods and is suitable for children from ages 5 to 16. The test will take approximately 30 to 50 minutes to complete.

How is NGRT used?

Reading is a critical skill for accessing the wider school curriculum. The NGRT enables us to quickly and accurately assess each student's reading level, which helps in planning personalised support where needed. Whether a student requires additional help or is ready for more challenging work, the NGRT helps us tailor interventions to each individual, with the goal of improving reading skills and overall academic achievement.

How does NGRT compare to an exam?

Unlike formal exams, the NGRT is a formative assessment and does not impact your child's grades. However, it will be conducted under controlled conditions to ensure that students complete the test independently. While students will receive instructions on how to take the test and use the online platform, no assistance will be provided with answering the questions.

The test should take between 30 and 50 minutes, depending on whether it is conducted on paper or digitally.

Should my child revise or train for NGRT? Can I get practice tests?

We advise against any preparation or revision for the NGRT. The purpose of the test is to provide an accurate picture of your child's reading ability at the time of testing. Practice questions are included in the assessment to help students become familiar with the format of the test, but no prior practice is necessary.

Additional Information:

Headphones will be provided for the test, but students are welcome to bring their own, as long as they have a headphone jack (Bluetooth headphones are not permitted). The tests will take place during students' IT lessons, with their IT teacher present. Both Ms Harrison and I will be on hand to provide any necessary support during the assessments.

If you have any questions about the NGRT or how it will be conducted, please feel free to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Miss H Crowder

Assistant Headteacher – Teaching and Learning.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H Crowder', with a horizontal line extending to the right.