



9th June 2026

New Group Reading Tests – Year 8

Dear Parents/Carers

All students in Year 8 will complete their NGRT (New Group Reading Test) between 15th June 2026 and 19th June 2026. This is for one lesson and will be facilitated within their regular timetabled Computing lesson. NGRT is a standardised assessment which allows us to measure the reading skills of all students at the school, comparing their result against the national average. The NGRT assesses students' knowledge of phonics, comprehension, decoding, vocabulary and inference. This works alongside the CAT4 tests to provide us with a reading data for all students.

In Year 8, students will regularly sit their New Group Reading Test throughout the academic year and will help to measure progress, inform predictions and help to set the correct pathway for our students. It is important that students do not miss their Computing lesson.

Reading is a priority for us at Mark Rutherford School as we are aware of the level of contribution it can have to a child's success. The average reading age required to successfully access a GCSE exam paper is 15 years and seven months. Students who read for approximately twenty minutes a day are those who typically make the most progress. With our support as well as parental engagement, we are confident in our students' ability to succeed.

There is no 'revision' required for our Reading Test, although we strongly advise and encourage twenty minutes of reading at home a day to ensure age-related progress.

Understanding the data:

The Standard Age Score (SAS) is the most important piece of information derived from NGRT. The SAS is based on the student's raw score which has been adjusted for age and placed on a scale that makes a comparison with a nationally representative sample of same age across the UK. The average score is 100. The SAS is key to benchmarking and tracking progress and is the fairest way to compare the performance of different students within a year group or across year groups.

To avoid abnormally low scores, please have a discussion with your child(ren) about the seriousness of their NGRT.

"The more that you read, the more things that you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go" – Dr. Suess

Yours faithfully

Mr D Johnson
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