



HAYES SCHOOL

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Our ref: SCA/mhn/off/Yr7/UpcomingNGRTSPARX

10th September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Upcoming NGRT and Sparx Reader assessments for Year 7

I am writing to let you know that between Tuesday 17th and Friday 20th September, Year 7 students will be sitting two computerised reading assessments in order to help us understand their strengths and areas for development. The assessments will be conducted in AM registration and the first lesson of the day, and no preparation is required.

The first assessment is the New Group Reading Test (NGRT). The NGRT is a computerised, adaptive test that presents students with questions based on sentence completion and passage comprehension. It is a well-established and nationally conducted assessment which provides us with information about students' strengths and areas for development concerning their reading ability. We will be conducting these assessments, which take approximately half an hour, in both September and in the summer term. By examining the progress made, we hope to better evaluate the initiatives we put in place and help drive improvements.

The second assessment is the Sparx Reader placement test that determines a starting point for the Sparx Reader program your child will be following this year. We undertook a pilot program with Sparx Reader last year and the data from the NGRT tests at the beginning of the year and the end of the year was incontrovertible: students who engaged more with Sparx Reader made more progress with their reading over the year than students who didn't. It is ideally set-up for students of all reading abilities and has many tools to help students who experience visual stress or struggle with vocabulary. More information about this will be sent out before your child starts using the software. This test will not be repeated later in the year.

Please rest assured that the results of this assessment will have no impact on the make-up of classes. The results will be used internally for the monitoring and evaluation of our strategies to develop reading.

Yours sincerely

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