FOXFORD
Community School

10 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

We are writing to inform you that, as part of our commitment to supporting your child's learning and the improvement of literacy skills, all Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be completing their second New Group Reading Test (NGRT) assessment, commencing the Monday 15 September.
This assessment will help us to see assess your child's reading skills and measure their progress across the academic year. This will also provide us with information to support your child's literacy skill development to ensure they receive the correct support moving forward. Below is some important information regarding the test and its purpose.

The students will be completing these tests online during an English lesson. The results from these tests will be used to:

- Adapt lessons and resources to meet individual needs
- Identify students who may need additional support/interventions
- Identify students that need to be stretched and challenged
- Track progress and celebrate improvements

It is therefore extremely important that these tests are taken seriously and that you encourage your child to try their best during the reading assessments. This will help us to ensure the results are an accurate reflection of your child's abilities. Once the assessments have been completed, this information will be used by all staff to ensure lessons are supportive and challenging.

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.
We appreciate your continued support and involvement in your child's education. Together we can ensure we continue to grow confident and competent readers and help every student achieve their full potential.

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

Yours faithfully

M Rock

Mrs Melanie Rock
Strategic Lead for Learning and Teaching