

**Poltair School**

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Headteacher: Mr Mark Everett



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13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Student Reading Assessment

As part of Poltair's whole school literacy strategy, we would like to inform you of an important upcoming assessment. During the two weeks commencing Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, as outlined below, all students will be sitting their first New Group Reading Test (NGRT) reading assessment of the academic year.

Timetable of NGRT assessments:

Date	Lesson	Year Group
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	3	7Y
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	4	9X
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	4	7Y
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	1	9Y
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	3	8Y
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	4	8X
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	1	7X
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	3	11X
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	4	10Y
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	1	11Y
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	2	10X

The NGRT, run by GL assessments, is designed to assess students' reading abilities. It is a standardised assessment that we administer bi-annually to reliably measure reading skills against the national average. It provides the school with a detailed and accurate breakdown of reading comprehension, strengths and weaknesses, and helps us get to the root of any problems precisely and quickly. As a result of this data, we are able to intervene with students who require support with their reading.

Developing literacy and reading ability is fundamental to a student's ability to access the curriculum in secondary school. Research suggests that students need an average reading age of 15 in order to be able to access all of their GCSEs; Science and Maths have some of the highest reading age requirements with certain papers needing a reading age of 16. The NGRT is therefore a useful indicator in highlighting how well-equipped students are to access this reading material and the demands of the curriculum.

The 30-45 minute assessment will be undertaken in your child's usual lessons and will be completed on a computer. An assembly will be delivered to students reiterating the importance of the assessment and the expectations during it. There is no revision or preparation required for this test. However, please can you discuss this assessment with your child, reassuring them of any concerns they may have and emphasising the importance of completing the assessment to the best of their ability so that we can calculate an accurate reading score. We will share your child's reading score with you in their Learning Cycle 1 Progress Report. If

reading intervention is required, you will be contacted following the results with details of how we plan to support your child.

As a school, we are committed to ensuring that our students are able to read for progress, purpose and pleasure. Should you have any questions or require any additional information about how we promote and champion reading across the school, please do contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Justine Kellow  
Assistant Headteacher



Emma Owen  
Assistant Headteacher