

STJ Reading Strategy 2025-26

All students entering Y7 sit the New Group Reading Test (NGRT) – an adaptive, digital test which measures students' strengths with reading and identifies what they might need help with. The test provides a Standardised Age Score (SAS). A score of 100 is average. Students scoring SAS 85 and under are likely to require further support with phonics and fluency. We also use the York Assessment of Reading Comprehension (YARC) for the readers most in need as this provides another layer of understanding on how to move forward. Students scoring SAS 86-96 might need some support with fluency, a vocabulary top-up or some guided reading to enhance their comprehension of texts. Students in other year groups might also sit the NGRT if we feel that this is necessary. However, in most cases, we will read 1:1 with students in older years to measure their ability and place them on one of the intervention pathways below if further support is needed.

SAS <85

Hear student read 1:1

Use **Sounds Write** to diagnose a student's need

Need: **Decoding**

YARC most in need

Use **Sounds Write** to teach phonics

Need: **Fluency**

Join one of the 'yellow' pathways

SAS 86-95

Hear student read 1:1- Miscue analysis

Diagnose: Reading Fluency Test alongside NGRT report findings

Fluency Pathway

Small-group intervention. Reading directed on fluency to promote automaticity

Comprehension Pathway

Small-group intervention. Reading directed to fluency, comprehension and prosody

Lexia Pathway

Online tailored program which targets three interrelated strands: word study, grammar and comprehension. All promote accuracy and automaticity

Sparx Reading Support

Targets reading routines and strategies to promote pace and automaticity. This adapts to individual needs and matches to age-appropriate material

Plus:

Fast Forward to Fluency program – Y7 tailored sessions
'That Reading Thing' for KS4

SAS 96+

These students are unlikely to require intervention outside of their regular curriculum and methods of assessment. Students' progress is monitored at assessment points and any struggling readers are flagged by staff across all subjects. Students enter intervention pathways if needed

Sparx Reader

We use this online programme to regularly monitor students' reading and pay close, specific attention to those students who are on any of the intervention pathways above

Tutor Reading Programme – all students actively read a selected text with their tutors twice a week. Tutors have been trained on how to deliver this.

Progress Check: NGRT Form B

All Y7 students sit a second NGRT test late in the year to measure their progress. This will help us to identify any students who require support into Y8. Students in other year groups might also sit the NGRT across the year if we feel that further diagnosis into their reading is necessary.