

Monday 27th September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It was lovely to meet so many of you in person at the 'Meet the Tutor' event last week and to see that, for the most part, your children are settling into life at secondary school. We know it takes longer for some children to transition to secondary school and we will continue to support them for as long as they need.

Re: Year 7 NGRT and Progress Tests, 1st October 2021.

At Bluecoat Trent Academy we pride ourselves on using up-to-date assessment and information to support your child in every way possible. After the disruption of schools during the pandemic we are working to gain a full understanding of your child's ability and starting point so that we can support your child to maximise their potential. Due to the school closures and disruption to learning that students faced during the last academic year, we feel it is important to ensure we are checking their understanding and progress at various points in the year so that we can put in place any intervention to support your child. The tests are not a judgement of performance but will provide us with valuable information on your child's reading ability and allow our teachers to inform their planning going forward as well as helping us to identify any potential barriers to learning, affecting progress. As always it remains at our heart that we address gaps in learning as soon as possible to enable our pupils to feel confident and supported with their learning.

I am writing to you to inform you that throughout the remainder of this half term your child will be involved in series of online tests created by GL Assessment to help us support your child. This process will start with on Friday 1st October 2021 with the *New Group Reading Test (NGRT)*.

What is the NGRT?

The *New Group Reading Test* comprises three sections: Phonics, Sentence Completion and Passage Comprehension. The reading tests are designed to provide our teachers with information that they need to support your child with reading which impacts every lesson they attend. This information will be used to support the creation of teaching groups and reading intervention groups where appropriate. If your child is involved in a reading intervention group as a result of these tests, we will contact you to explain how you can support at home and what the intervention comprises of. Class teachers will also be able to use this information to ensure teaching is aimed at the correct ability of the group they are teaching.

Progress Tests

This half term your child will also undertake a series of on-line progress tests in English, Maths and Science. The Progress Test Series (PT Series) helps accurately measure how students are performing in English, Maths and Science against the national average. The tests assess knowledge, understanding and application of the core curriculum subjects, helping us to understand current levels of attainment and identify any gaps in learning at both an individual and cohort level. The tests will be used to help us check current attainment levels and will subsequently be sat throughout your child's school career to help us measure and track progress. Detailed reports provided by the tests help our subject leaders identify those students who require more challenging targets and those who may need extra support. We will contact you in due course to let you know when we will be administering these tests. Again,

these tests are not a judgement of performance but will provide us with valuable information on your child's ability and allow our teachers to inform their planning going forward.

Please can you ensure that your child is ready to complete the tests by having a positive attitude to completing the test in test conditions and trying their best. There is no revision required however we do want pupils to be serious during the test and to try their best. Headphones will be required to complete the tests. We have plenty of headphones at school which have been cleaned and disinfected following Covid-19 safety guidance. However, if your child would like to use their own headphones they may. They must have the ability to plug into a PC using the correct connector.

Many thanks for your support with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. McManus', is written over a thin vertical line that extends downwards from the signature.

Miss C McManus
Principal