

Dear Parent/Guardian

March 2021

National Reference Test 2021

I am writing to make you aware that your child has been randomly selected to take a National Reference Test in 2021. The Headteacher is aware of this and can answer any questions you may have.

Each year up to 60 year 11 students in each of 300 schools take a one-hour National Reference Test (or NRT) in English language or maths. Your child does not need to prepare for this test and the results will have no bearing on their individual learning record or their teacher assessed GCSE grade. The results of the test are anonymised and are not provided to individual schools or students, and so cannot and will not be used as evidence in teacher assessments of how individual students are performing.

The National Reference Test provides a valuable source of evidence which The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) uses to understand changes in student performance at a national level over time. In a typical year this evidence is used by exam boards when setting grade boundaries in GCSE English language and maths. Even though there are no GCSE examinations this year, this evidence is still vitally important as it will help Ofqual, the Department for Education and schools to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on learning. It is very important that each selected student takes part to ensure that results are meaningful and representative of the GCSE student population across the country.

Your child's school will confirm the date and time of the test which will be carried out between **26 April and 7 May 2021**. No extra work or revision is required to prepare for the test.

The test lasts one hour and will be administered by a member of staff from the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). All test administrators have enhanced DBS checks and will follow the latest Government advice about COVID-19 (e.g. using face coverings and hand sanitiser). For more information about how NFER will make sure that the tests are administered safely, please visit <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/national-reference-test/>.

The marking of the test will be carried out by staff at NFER and the results will be kept confidential. The results are not used in any measures of individual student or school performance, will not be provided to Ofsted or local authorities and no individual school or student will be identified in any report.

All data collected by NFER will be held securely. We do not collect more information than is necessary to fulfil our stated purposes and we will not keep it for longer than is necessary. To see the full privacy statement please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-reference-test-your-information-and-your-privacy>.

We very much appreciate your child's participation in the NRT. If you have any questions regarding the test, please contact the school for further information.

Yours sincerely



Jo Nossiter
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