

Dear Parent/Guardian

January 2020

National Reference Test 2020

I am writing to you because your child has been selected to take part in this year's National Reference Test (NRT). The Headteacher is fully aware of the test and supports the students' participation.

Each year, over 300 schools take part in the NRT. At each school up to 60 students are selected at random from year 11 and will be asked to take either the English test or the maths test.

The test will be carried out between **24 February and 6 March 2020**. Your school will confirm the date and time that has been agreed with NFER. The test lasts one hour. Participation will give students an opportunity this spring term to practise in exam conditions a test that is similar in style to the actual GCSEs they will be taking this summer. It is very important that all selected students take part to ensure that the data from these tests is representative of the GCSE student population across the country. After the test students will be asked to complete a short five minute survey about their experience of the NRT and their preparation in general for their GCSE exams. Students do not have to prepare for the test. No additional work or revision is required.

The marking of the test will be carried out by staff at NFER and the results will be kept confidential. The results of individual students will not be provided to any of the students' current or future schools and will not be used in awarding their GCSE. In addition, the results from this test will not be used in any measures of school performance. It will not be provided to Ofsted or local authorities and no individual school or student will be identified in any report. All students that participate in the test will be entered into a draw for a prize of a tablet.

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>.

Ofqual regulates qualifications and examinations in England. Ofqual has asked the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to hold the NRT each year in a sample of schools¹. The aim of the test is to provide information on changes in performance standards over time in GCSE English language and maths. To reflect the importance of the test, and to ensure high participation rates and therefore robust data, the Government has introduced legislation that requires the participation of state schools, academies and free schools, that are selected to take part. To ensure the sample of students taking the test is as representative as possible, some schools not covered by the legislation have also been asked to participate.

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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Research and Product Operations

¹ www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-reference-test-information