



Parent guide to Fresh Start Phonics

This document will outline the following information.

1. What is Fresh Start Phonics?
2. Which students will need to do a Fresh Start Phonics Course?
3. How will the screening process work?
4. How can I help my child if they have been placed on a Fresh Start Phonics Intervention course?

1. What is Fresh Start Phonics?

Read Write Inc. Fresh Start is an age appropriate catch-up intervention programme for older students who need some help with their reading skills. It offers a simple but effective method to help students accelerate their reading progress. At Thornhill Community Academy, we offer daily sessions to small groups of students by phonics trained members of staff.

Fresh Start teaches students at their challenge point to ensure that they are not starting at a point that is too easy or too hard for them. This helps them learn to read accurately and fluently. They will also develop their comprehension, spelling and punctuation skills through targeted activities.

The following video introduces the concept behind the Fresh Start Phonics Package:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nk9tSZ5wceo>

2. Which students need to do a Fresh Start Phonics course?

Each student at Thornhill Community Academy will sit a New Group Reading Test (NGRT). Tasks on the NGRT include sentence completion and reading comprehension. Standard Age Score (SAS) will be calculated once the test is complete. The SAS is based on the number of questions a student has answered correctly; the score is adjusted for age and placed on a scale that makes a comparison with a nationally representative sample of students of the same age across the UK. The average score is 100. Students who get an NGRT Standard Age Score (SAS) of below 85 are in need of intensive literacy interventions and will be screened for Phonics Intervention.

The following video helps you to understand why we teach phonics.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc>





3. How will the screening process work?

The following link leads to videos showing the assessment process

<https://www.ruthmiskin.com/fresh-start-assessment/>

*4. How can I help my child if they have been placed on a Fresh Start
Phonics Intervention course?*

It will take practise, but the best way to help your child if they have been put on the Fresh Start Phonics intervention course is to learn the sounds used in phonics. This link will lead you to a useful video on how to pronounce the sounds: <https://www.ruthmiskin.com/fresh-start-assessment/>

The school will keep in regular contact with you to share useful videos that link to your child's recent phonics learning. Sitting with your child and watching these videos and practicing the skills they suggest will be invaluable.

