

RENAISSANCE®

Multi Academy
Trusts: Getting
Started with
Renaissance Star
Assessments and
Accelerated Reader



Reliable and valid progress data

How Renaissance can support your trust in measuring growth and attainment

Consistency throughout your academies

How you can recognise and replicate best practices within your MAT

Tailored package for your trust

Available support and how can you obtain bespoke trust-level reporting

Overview

What is Renaissance Accelerated Reader (AR)?

At its heart, Accelerated Reader is simple: a student reads a book, takes an online quiz, and receives immediate feedback. Students respond to regular feedback and are motivated to make progress with their reading skills.

What are Star Assessments?

Computer-adaptive Star Assessments for Reading and Maths are used by almost 6,000 schools across the UK and Ireland. Star Assessments provide you with reliable data showing progress made by each student and if they are on track to meet expected standards on the learning pathway. Star Assessments also provide a personalised learning plan for each student, helping to inform next teaching steps.

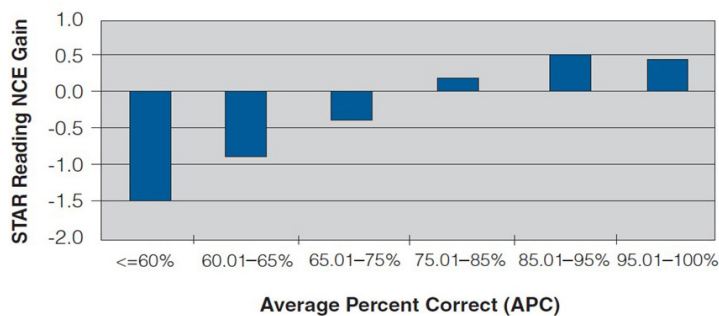
Star Assessments are unique in a few ways:

- **The test runs from the beginning of primary to the end of secondary**
 - The test is computer adaptive. This allows the test to stretch to where students are currently working, no matter what their key stage.
 - The test is normed to over 816,000 tests. This norming has been completed based on year in school and month of birth.
- **The test has a very high correlation to the KS2 SATs**
 - This is not only useful to help make predictions about whether students will achieve the primary standard but can also be helpful to secondary schools looking at year 7 catch-up.
- **The test contains a unique progress score**
 - The Student Growth Percentile (SGP) is a national comparison of progress, taking into account not only a student's year level but their assessment history. This becomes very useful when comparing low achievers. For example, if you have a student in year 7 with a reading age of 6 years, this student has struggled to make progress in the past. If you then see that student advance 3 months in 6 months' time, is that good? The SGP compares that child's progress with his/her national peers (those who are in the same year group and starting with the same ability). This allows you to easily identify when you are getting low, typical or high levels of growth.
- **The test links into a learning progression**
 - Renaissance provides a wealth of data to keep you informed on attainment and progress at a school, group and student level. Aligned to the National Curriculum, it also enables educators to dig down into the skills students are struggling with. Data from Renaissance is available instantly preventing delays, and reports can be filtered to show any demographic group you may wish to track. To ensure the greatest impact, Renaissance recommends that educators familiarise themselves with the following research behind Accelerated Reader.

What does the research say?

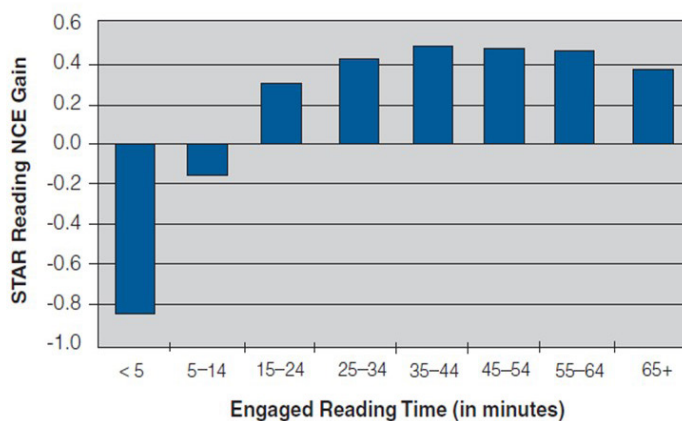
- **The Guided Independent Reading Report** analysed the reading habits of 2.2 million students worldwide, highlighting two key conclusions when exploring how to attain accelerated progress:
 - Students should aim to average 85% correct in quiz-taking.

Figure 1: Students Experience Greatest Reading Growth With Averages Between 85.01 and 95 Percent
 (n = 2,284,464, 2010–2011 School Year)



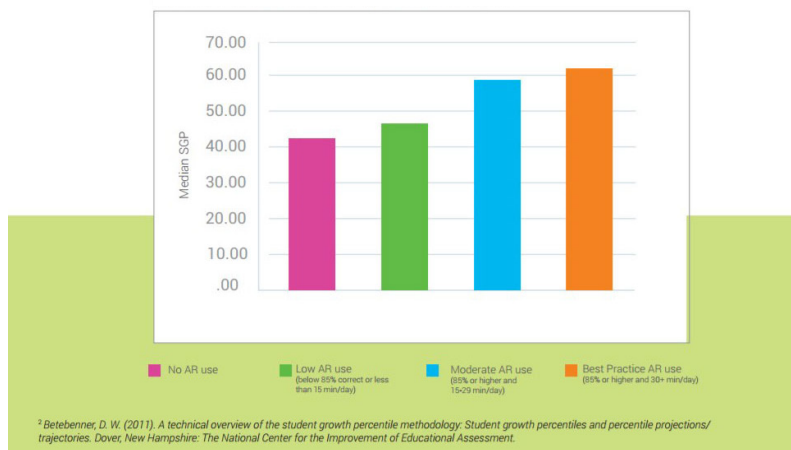
- Students should aim to read for a minimum of 15 minutes per day. You may wish to consider how the academies in your MAT are achieving this.

Figure 2: Gains Leap When Students Are Actively Engaged in Reading at Least 15 to 24 Minutes per Day
 (n = 2,263,359, 2010–2011 School Year)



- **The Impact Report** from 2016 echoed the conclusions of the 2012 Guided Independent Reading Report. However, this study was completed exclusively with UK students.

Figure 3: AR implementation categories and SGP overall



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Next steps for your MAT

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- **How are you going to measure progress?**
 - Will you use Standardised Scores, Student Growth Percentiles, Reading Ages, Percentile Ranks?
 - Do you want to use our tools to help track and predict SATs results or monitor Year 7 catch-up?
 - Do your SENCOs know that there is a Standardised Score available and that Star Assessments have been recognised by PATOS and JCQ?
- **What characteristics are most important for you to track?**
 - E.g. Pupil Premium versus Non-Pupil Premium?
- **How are you going to ensure that Star is consistent across the MAT?**
 - Decide on how often you are going to administer Star Assessments. Renaissance recommends a minimum of 4 times a year, but students can be tested as frequently as required.
 - Set up agreed windows during the year in which you will expect all academies to test. Remember for accurate comparisons, it is important to keep this window as short as possible. Aim for two weeks, but be certain not to exceed 30 days.
 - Share expected practice for testing. It is important to administer the test in exam conditions to ensure the fidelity of the data.
- **How can we help you achieve your goals?**
 - All MAT Heads of Assessment are eligible for a free one-hour call that can be booked in with our Implementation team to help you create a bespoke plan for your MAT. Be sure to contact coaching@renlearn.co.uk.
 - We offer three webinars throughout the year specifically aimed at MAT leaders. Visit www.renlearn.co.uk/event to register.
 - Keep an eye out for our half-termly emails filled with top tips to share with your academies. Not only will you be given resources to ensure consistency, but you will also receive strategies to further your implementation.

We appreciate that all academies run differently and many need the freedom to make things work for their students based on the unique context. However, if you are looking for the greatest impact from Renaissance products, you may wish to agree on key areas of focus.

Accountability	Consistency	Communication
<p>Schedule in Star testing windows and a date by which all academies will have imported their student data into the Renaissance site.</p>	<p>Share expected practice for testing.</p> <p>Test under exam conditions to ensure fidelity of the test</p>	<p>Check out our Implementation Timeline for a learning walk form, as well as top tips poster that you can share with the person responsible in each academy.</p>
<p>Consider who is responsible for Renaissance in each academy. Do all key contacts have similar levels of responsibility?</p>	<p>Create core teams in the schools to manage this. Ensure that all involved have different responsibilities, e.g. you may have a librarian/ person responsible for books, someone with curriculum responsibility (such as the Head of English, Literacy Coordinator or Key Stage Coordinator) and a member of the Senior Leadership team to oversee the data set.</p>	<p>Book in the initial/set-up call between the Head of Assessments for your MAT and our team. They will walk you through the many resources we have created that your academies can use and share with students. This ensures the messaging isn't lost as it passes from Renaissance to the teachers, leaders and students in your academies.</p>
<p>Decide how you will measure progress and agree which characteristics are most important to track (e.g. Pupil Premium).</p>	<p>Set your minimum expectations for Accelerated Reader, e.g. daily reading time? Setting targets?</p> <p>Ask schools to import/assign the agreed characteristics into their Renaissance website. If they need further support, reach out to us.</p> <p>Email coaching@renlearn.co.uk or call 020 7184 4000.</p>	<p>Attend our webinars to find out how you can use the custom data extractor to view and analyse progress across the trust.</p> <p>Visit www.renlearn.co.uk/event for more information.</p>

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