RENAISSANCE®

Informed senior leaders

How can I easily track our catch-up students on their way to the expected standard?

Confident teachers

Where can I get the fast insight I need to support each child?

Accelerated learners

How can we be sure the interventions selected are making an impact?

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Introduction

Secondary Schools all have the same target for Year 7 students who have not met the Primary standard in mathematics, reading or spelling, punctuation and grammar: to help them catch up to their academic peers.

Supporting students' catch up may feel like an onerous task, especially with the workload pressures teachers are currently facing. It requires 2 steps:

1. Finding effective evidence-based programmes. This may include research using the Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) studies or information from the Department for Education's website.
2. Measuring progress to identify when students have reached the expected standard— and being confident that the measurement is accurate.

Not only is Renaissance Accelerated Reader listed on the DfE's website and EEF's website as a programme that works, but Renaissance Star Assessments has recently undergone a correlation study with the Key Stage 2 SATs. The correlations are high and mean you can track students using Star Assessment to identify when they have reached the Primary standard in reading, maths and spelling and grammar.

KS2 SATs correlation with Star Assessments

The main findings of the linking analysis revealed that Star Reading and Star Maths can act as accurate predictors of the Key Stage 2 SATs outcomes. The chart below provides the equivalent Star scores for each test which you may wish to use for tracking the expected attainment standard. SATs are reported in scaled scores ranging from approximately 80-120, with a score of 100 signifying the expected attainment standard and 110 marking the higher standard. A main purpose in linking Star Assessments to the SATs was to identify Star scores equivalent to the cut-off score that marks expected attainment.

	SATs Scaled Score	SATs Raw Score	Star™ Scaled Score
Reading	100	21	510
	110	34	858
Maths	100	60	712
	110	98	861
SPaG	100	43	473
	110	61	818

Table 1. Star Reading and Star Maths score equivalents for KS2 SATs expected attainment designation

When your new Year 7 cohort arrives, this 20-minute test (aligned to the National Curriculum) instantly provides teachers with:

- A range of scores, including a Scaled Score that can be compared to the equivalent KS2 expected standard.
- Insight into the skills those children are ready to learn next.
- Progress monitoring tools that show whether the intervention the student uses meets the expected standard by the date you set.

The following guide outlines the 7 steps you may wish to take to support your Year 7 catch-up students:

1. Identify Year 7 catch-up students on the Renaissance Home page. This enables you to view reports quickly for Senior Leadership or visiting bodies who may want to know if the funding is being used effectively.
2. Star Test your students and view the summary reports.
3. Run the suggested skills report.
4. Set up your interventions.
5. Log the interventions with your Renaissance progress monitoring tools.
6. Star test the students at least every half-term to track progress.
7. Celebrate when students meet the expected standard.

Step 1: Identify the students on the system

By listing your Year 7 catch-up students as a characteristic on the system, you can quickly pull reports for Senior Leadership or visiting bodies who may want to know if the funding is being effectively used.

1. Set up Year 7 catch-up as a characteristic:
    • In Renaissance Home, click **Users**.
    • Click **Set-Up Characteristics**.
    • Click **Add Characteristic**.
    • Enter the name of your new characteristic '**Year 7 catch-up**' and click **Add**. The new characteristic will be added to the list on the right.
    • Click **Done**.

2. Assign the characteristic to the relevant students:
    • In Renaissance Home, click **Users**.
    • Click **Edit Multiple Students**.
    • Select a class or year group and click **Search**. In the search results, select the students that you wish to apply changes to by ticking the box next to their name, then click **Add** to add them to the list on the left.
    • Under Select Changes, tick the **Add** box which will add the characteristic to these students' records.
    • In the drop-down list, select **Year 7 catch-up**.
    • To apply the changes to the students you have chosen (in the left-hand list), click **Save**.

3. Create the search with a Reporting Parameter Group:
    • Open any report (e.g. Renaissance Star Reading/Renaissance Star Maths Summary Report) and in the Reporting Parameter Groups option click on **Create New** or **Edit Selected**.
    • Type in Year 7 Catch-up for your Reporting Parameter name.
    • Select the criteria for the group of students you want to include in the report by ticking the box next to **Year 7 catch-up**.
    • Click **Save**. This Reporting Parameter is now saved for you to view in the drop-down menu for all reports on Renaissance Home.

Step 2: Star test your students and run your Summary Report

Star Testing

- You may wish to start by preparing students with our PowerPoint, which can be viewed at **https://vimeo.com/rluk/startestinglater**, so they know what to expect from the test.
- Ask your students to log on to Renaissance Home and click on the blue tile marked Star Reading or Star Maths. It may prompt you for a password. The default password is Admin, but your school may have changed this. It should take students between 20 and 30 minutes to complete depending upon their ability.

The Summary Report

- Your summary report will tell you when students have met the expected standard for KS2.

	SATs Scaled Score	SATs Raw Score	Star™ Scaled Score
Reading	100	21	510
	110	34	858
Maths	100	60	712
	110	98	861
SPaG	100	43	473
	110	61	818

Table 2. Star Reading and Star Maths score equivalents for KS2 SATs expected attainment designation 2

Rank your Summary Report to identify when Year 7 students are likely to have reached the expected standard of 510 in the Scaled Score:

1. Log onto **Renaissance Home**
2. Click on **Star Reading**
3. Click on **Reports**
4. Click on **Summary Report**
5. Select your demographic group: **Year 7 catch-up**
6. Select **Do not group**
7. Select **Rank**
8. Click **View Report**

Figure 1. Summary Report

Step 3: Run the suggested skills report

To help students catch-up, you must first understand what they are struggling with and where those gaps are. Renaissance is aligned to the National Curriculum and can help support in this area. While there are many skills identified, teachers can begin by focusing on those with double arrows next to them. This indicates that the skill is a focus skill, or a prerequisite to many skills to come.

1. Log on to **Renaissance Home**
2. Click on **Reading or Maths Dashboard**
3. Click on **Growth and Achievement**
4. Double click on a student's name
5. Click on **Suggested Skills**
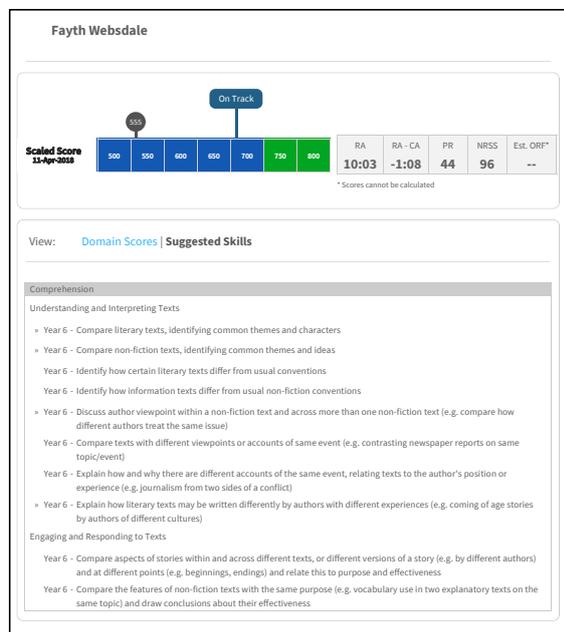
Figure 2. Suggested Skills

Step 4: Set up an intervention. For example, Accelerated Reader and/or Accelerated Maths can help students reach the expected standard

There are many interventions to choose from. You may wish to look at independent reviews of the various interventions available. The DfE published a paper on their website about evidence based solutions to support catch-up, and organisations such as the Education Endowment Foundation complete randomised controlled trials around many of the programmes to give teachers an idea of what works. Accelerated Reader is named on the Education Endowment Foundation's promising projects list.

Figure 3. Significant improvement

Step 5: Log the intervention with Renaissance progress monitoring tool

Accelerated Reader gathers data on the reading ability and progress of individual pupils which helps teachers and school leaders support pupils' independent reading practice. It's simple really: students read a book, take a quiz and receive instant feedback. Pupils will be able to access a range of other quizzes too, including vocabulary quizzes.

Accelerated Maths helps you to personalise maths practice and make data-driven decisions to guide each one of your students to mastery of curriculum-linked skills.

Remember: no matter what intervention you choose, Star Assessments will help you track what is working and the impact being made. You can accurately track any intervention on Renaissance Home and pull reports to prove the effect such interventions have had on students.

1. Log onto **Renaissance Home**
2. Click on **Star Reading**
3. Click on **Screening, Progress Monitoring and Intervention**
4. Click on the tab labelled **Progress Monitoring and Intervention**
5. Click **Search**
6. Select the student name
7. Click **Add Target**
8. Type in the name of your intervention
9. Select the date your intervention will end
10. Click **Generate Target**
11. Click **Save**
12. Repeat for all other year 7 catch-up students
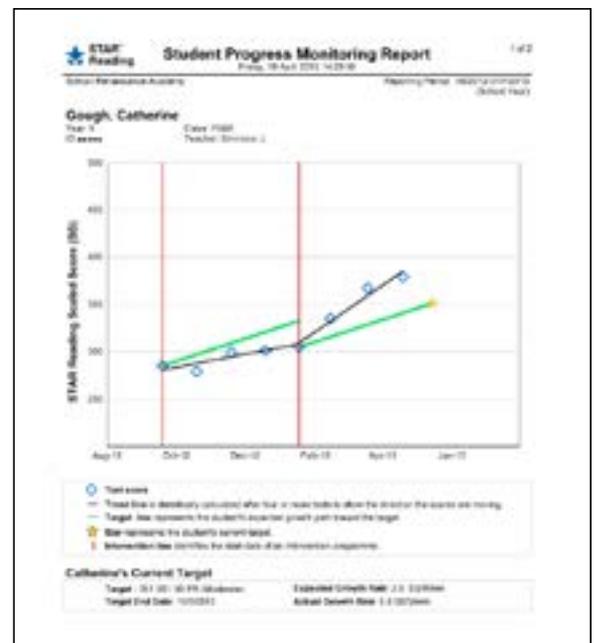

Figure 4. Student Progress Monitoring Report

Figure 5. Student Progress Monitoring Report

Top tip: Once the Star Test has been administered 4 times, a trend line appears on the report. This enables you to see if the student is likely to meet their target using the intervention. If not, you may change their intervention at that point.

Step 6: Star test the students at least every half-term to track progress

Regularly testing students will provide accurate progress data throughout the catch-up process. Each Star test will pick up from the students' previous results and it is important to ensure testing processes are consistent and conducted with fidelity.

Once you have multiple Star tests completed, view the key reports.

You may wish to watch our short video at **http://renlearn.co.uk/star-presentation-for-students** about preparing your students for a Star Test later in the year. You may also wish to use our PowerPoint, which can be viewed at **https://vimeo.com/rluk/startestinglater**, as a helpful reminder of what to expect.

The Summary Report

This report ranks Year 7 students on their scaled score. This allows you to identify when they have reached the expected standard of 510.

1. Log onto **Renaissance Home**
2. Click on **Star Reading**
3. Click on **Reports**
4. Click on **Summary Report**
5. Select your demographic group: **Year 7 catch-up**
6. Select **Do not group**
7. Select **Rank**
8. Click **View Report**

Figure 6. Summary Report 2

The Growth Report

This report will help you see individual growth, as well as progress made throughout the cohort.

1. Log onto **Renaissance Home**
2. Click on **Star Reading**
3. Click on **Reports**
4. Click on **Growth Report**
5. Select your demographic group: **Year 7 catch-up**
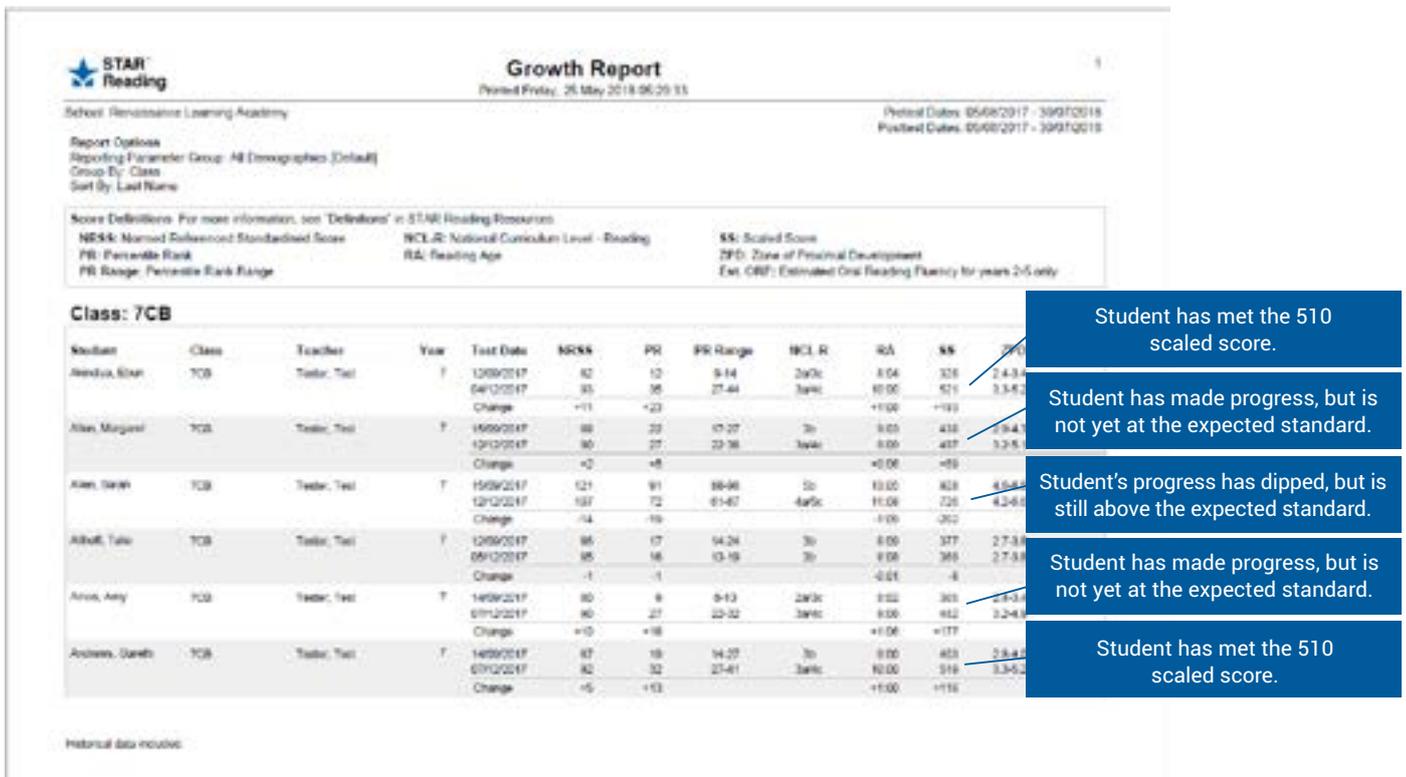6. Select **Do not group**
7. Click **View Report**

Figure 7. Growth Report

The Reading Dashboard

This will enable you to not only see student attainment, but also progress compared nationally to their academic peers.

1. Log into **Renaissance Home**
2. Click on **Reading** or **Maths Dashboard**
3. Click on **Growth and Achievement - Reading or Maths**
4. You will see the students listed on the left based on their attainment; Reading Age and Chronological Age for Reading if you are looking at the Reading Dashboard and a Scaled Score if you are looking at the Maths Dashboard. On the right the same students are ranked based on their Student Growth Percentiles (SGPs), which tell you if nationally they are achieving high growth, expected growth or low growth compared to other students of similar ability.
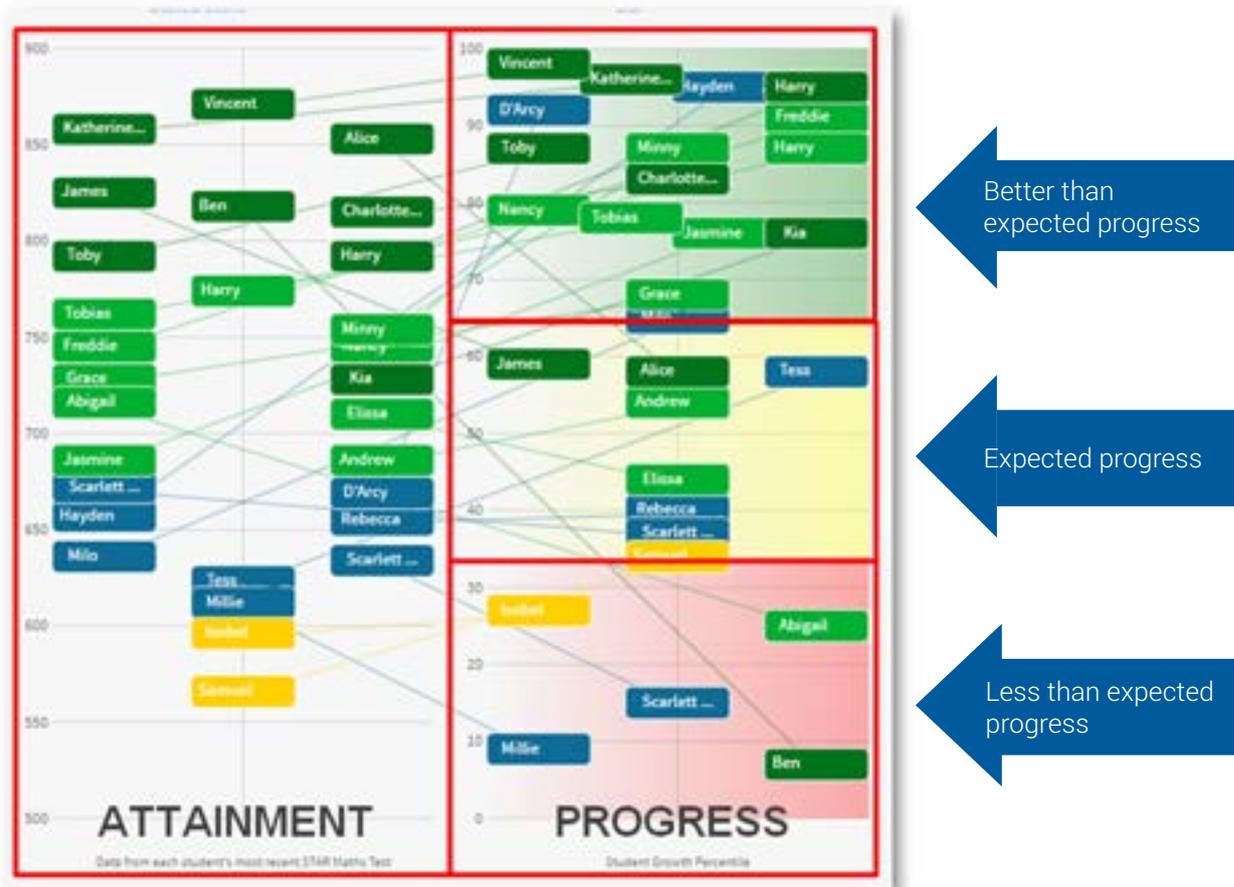
Figure 8. Attainment and Progress

Step 7: Celebrate when they reach the benchmark

Celebrate when they meet their Year 6 expected standard! But remember, there's still a long way to go to help them catch up with their academic peers. Be sure to review the different interventions you may have in place and consider how each are working.

You can find certificates to help celebrate outstanding progress on our website:
http://www.renlearn.co.uk/customers/resources

Appendix

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Education Endowment Foundation's (EEF) studies:
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/projects-and-evaluation/projects/accelerated-reader/

Department for Education's website:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/literacy-and-numeracy-catch-up-strategies

Correlation study with the Key Stage 2 SATs: https://doc.renlearn.com/KMNet/R61342.pdf

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PowerPoint: https://vimeo.com/rluk/startestinglater

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Short video: http://renlearn.co.uk/star-presentation-for-students

PowerPoint: http://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Taking-a-Star-Reading-test-student-presentation-Secondary.pdf

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Website: https://www.renlearn.co.uk/customers/resources

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