

26 January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

We have recently introduced a new platform for students to read on for home learning. In response to student feedback on **Sparx Reader**, we have found **Reading Plus**. This system is significantly more helpful to students, and to us as staff, for supporting pupils to become stronger readers.

Many studies have shown the immense value that reading has in improving not only academic results, but for mental health and general wellbeing. By secondary school, students are expected to have largely shifted from 'learning to read' to 'reading to learn', but each student has their own path and support will be given to those who need it. Additionally, reading is a skill that continues to develop as we come to understand a wider vocabulary and more complex structures. We want all our pupils to be strong, confident readers of all texts they may be confronted with in life.

Reading Plus is an adaptive program that looks at multiple aspects of reading. It tracks comprehension, fluency, and reading speed separately so that it can use a pupil's strengths to support their area of weakness. It also tracks their motivation and confidence. For example, a student with high comprehension and low fluency would be given texts a little below their comprehension while a guided reader supports their fluency to bring it closer in line with their ability to comprehend. As students complete reading lessons, it allows us to see the styles of questions they struggle, which is a helpful diagnostic tool when considering how to support our students. It will appeal to some pupils more than others, but the key thing is that using it will improve their ability to read.

Once the pupils get used to the system, it is user-friendly. As with anything, while its new to us, we will have hiccups. The students will need to enter a site code which is **rpstangrou** for our academy, their username, and a password. Form tutors are able to check student's login information for them.

Once in the program, they will have a library of ability-appropriate short texts to choose from. There are fiction and non-fiction options and a variety of genres. Students will read the text and answer some questions to check their understanding. If they are accurate on 80% of the questions, they get a green box to start a 'combo'. They secure a combo by reading a second consecutive text at 80% or above. Two saves that combo, and 4 combos are required to move to the next library in difficulty. This requires students to demonstrate a level of consistency at one level before progressing. Vocabulary lessons support academic vocabulary advancement

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and visual skills develops language exposure and left to right scanning, which improves comprehension.

We will work as quickly as we can to iron out any issues. Please contact me on jmcinnis@stangroundacademy.org with any concerns that do not relate to logins. Those queries should be directed to form tutors in the first instance.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'J Mclinnis', is positioned above the printed name.

Ms Mclinnis
Teacher of English