

23rd June 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

The English team hope that you and your families are safe and well. Ordinarily, as the summer term draws to a close, students in years 7 and 8 would be preparing to sit their final STAR test of the academic year letting us know their current reading age. From the results of this final test we would then be able to assess the progress that they have made with their reading over this academic year. Obviously due to the current situation, we cannot administer this test in the usual way; therefore, we would be grateful if your son could take the test online. This information is important for us to start planning for the next academic year. Students will then receive their new ZPDs in the post so that they can ensure that they are accessing the most appropriate books for their ability over the long summer break.

From **week beginning 22nd June**, you will be able to access your **son's online STAR test** and we ask, if possible, it could be completed by **Thursday 9th July at 5pm**. The test should take between 15-40 minutes; please note that if it is taken in less than 15 minutes it is likely to produce an inaccurate result. Please follow the **included step by step guide** in order to log on and take the test. The test can be restarted or attempted again by contacting either myself or our English TA Miss Webber (contact details below), if you want 'live' support please include a contact telephone number and one of us will endeavour to be in touch with you as soon as we can. All tutors have a list of usernames and passwords for Accelerated Reader in case these have been forgotten.

Thank you in advance for your support with this. Please remind your son that it is really important that he keeps up with his reading - twenty minutes a day will ensure that he is making at least expected progress if not accelerated progress, it really does make all the difference. Accelerated Reader can still be accessed over the summer break and all house points earned from passing quizzes will be back dated in September. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Miss Webber if you have any questions.

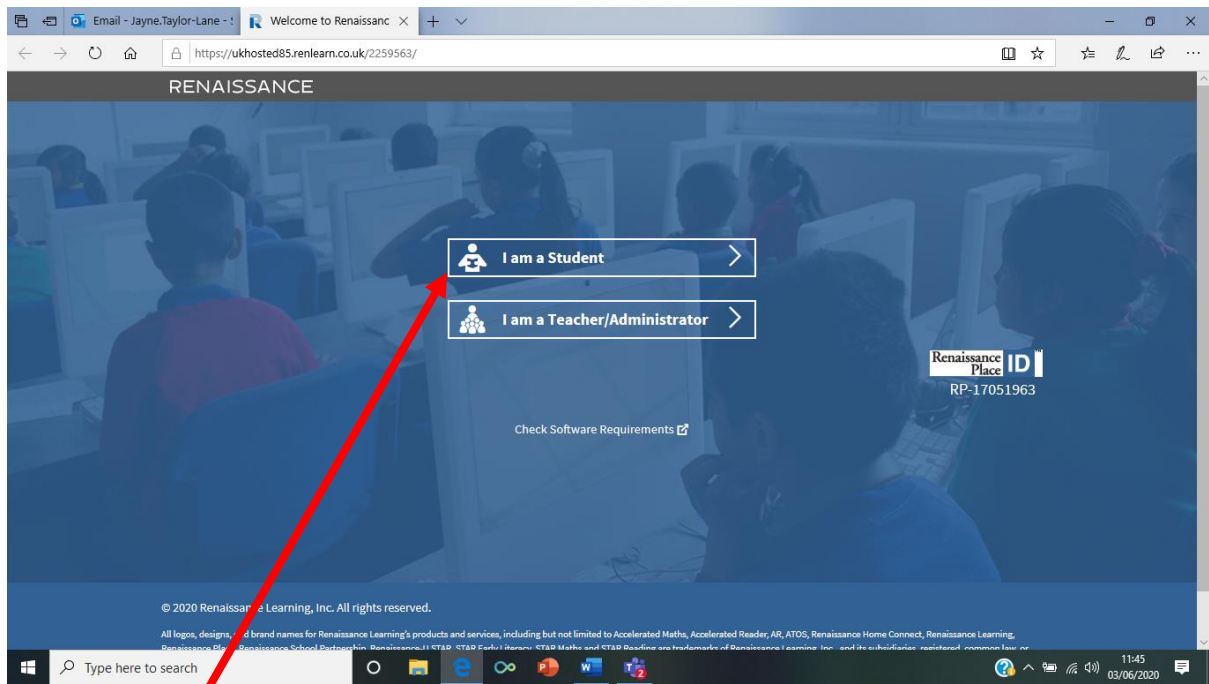
Yours faithfully
Jayne Taylor-Lane
Head of English

JTaylor-Lane@educ.somerset.gov.uk

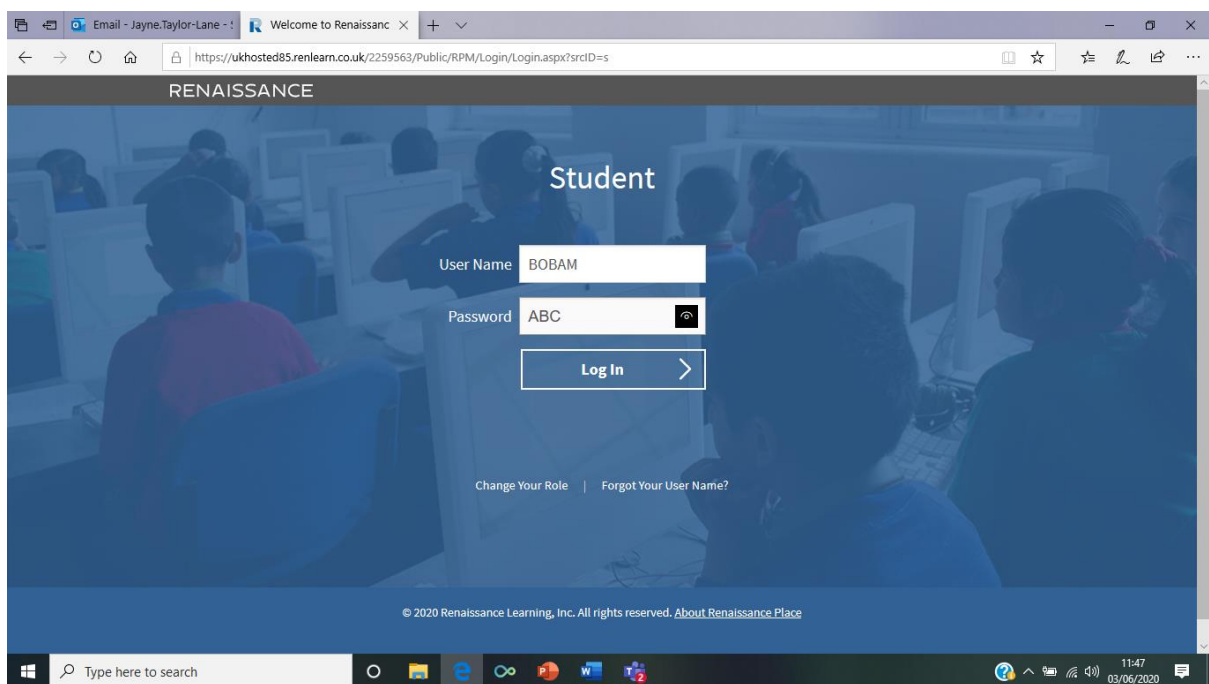
AWebber1@educ.somerset.gov.uk

How to take a STAR reading test

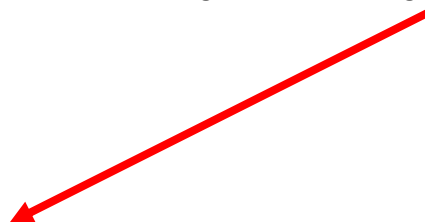
1. Please go to the following website, ensuring that the website is typed exactly as it is below as it is case sensitive; the number at the end is unique to Brymore – get the number wrong and you will be on a site for a different school where your son will not be registered.
<https://ukhosted85.renlearn.co.uk/2259563>

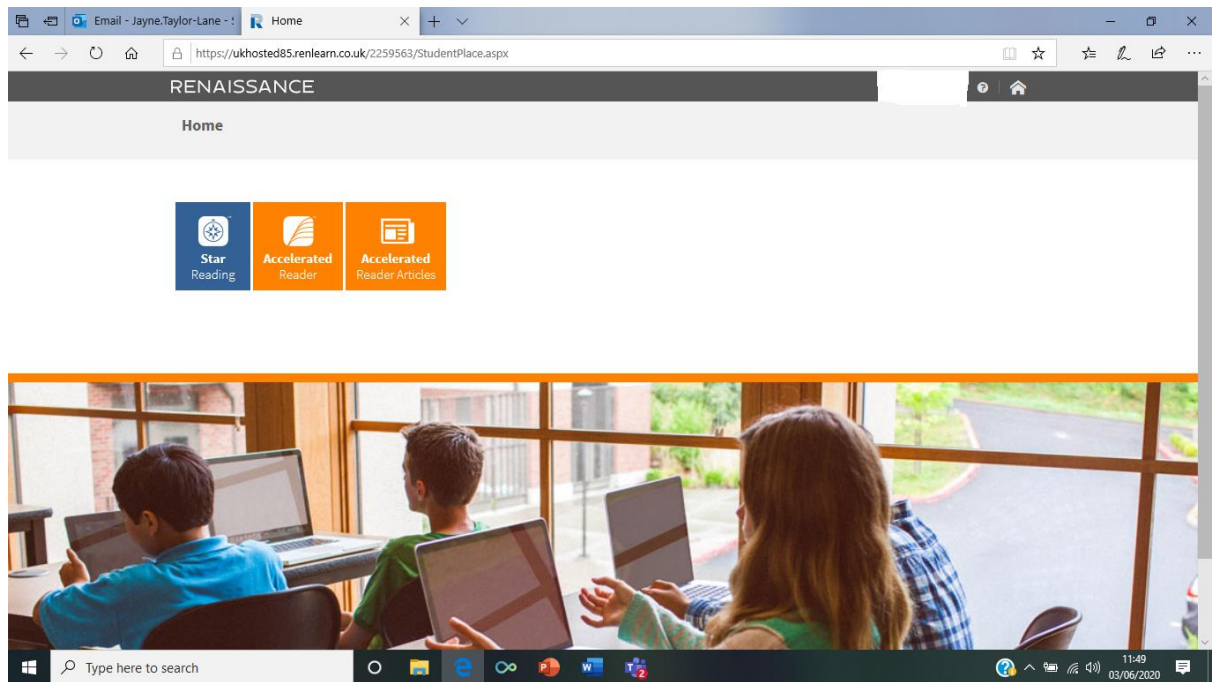


2. Select 'I am a Student'
3. You will then be asked to log in. Logins will be the first letter of your son's first name, followed by the first four letters of his surname, all in capital letters. For example, Barack Obama would be BOBAM. Passwords are all the same, ABC in all capital letters.



4. Once logged in, please go to the blue box labelled 'star reader', your son will be given sample questions before starting the real test to get him used to it.





Important instructions to give to your son:

- It is incredibly important that you take the test without guessing any answers. If you do not know an answer, you must allow the question to time out rather than guessing. Tests where students have guessed answers provide inaccurate reading ages and we need this information to help you in September.
- Another reason why it is important not to guess is because the test is adaptive – it tailors itself to the ability of the person taking it – if you guess and guess correctly, the test will just get harder.
- If you click through the questions without reading them, we will know! At Brymore we believe that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing well and that means having the resilience to try at things you may find more difficult (lots of our boys find reading difficult – yet they all do it!). If you take less than 15 minutes to take the test, we will be contacting you and asking you to do it again.
- The test must be taken by you as an individual and no support can be given so please do not ask someone at home to read the questions. Good luck and just try your best (it's all we'll ever ask of you!)