



October 2025

Home Learning for English, Mathematics and Science

Dear Parent/Carer

We thought it might be helpful to share some information about home learning for our core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science.

Home learning tasks are set weekly:

- Sparx Reader (Years 7, 8 and 9 only): Wednesday to Monday
- Sparx Maths (all years): Friday to Friday
- Sparx Science (all years): Monday to Sunday
- English Language and Literature tasks (Years 10 and 11): Monday to Monday

You and your child will recognise the Sparx log-in pages above. These may be accessed from Teams, or you can simply search for 'Sparx'.

Sparx provides adaptive learning that gives detailed feedback to the teacher about your child's understanding. We can then address any gaps in knowledge or skills.

Students earn points by completing the tasks accurately, and we also reward them in school with Care Credits. If they forget, there is a sliding scale of sanctions. Some students prefer to complete Sparx after school in the ILC (Independent Learning Centre), open Monday to Thursday until 4 p.m.

In Years 7 and 8, students should be spending about 30 minutes on each subject, each week. This expectation increases in Year 9, 10 and 11.

Further details about each subject are provided below. If you have any questions or concerns about home learning, please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

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Sparx Reader

On-screen reading sessions are punctuated by questions that test comprehension – the more accurate the answers, the higher the score. The purpose of Sparx Reader is not reading for pleasure, and students must persevere, even if they do not find a book thrilling; our weekly library lesson provides the antidote!

The program is adaptive, with a start-up test and regular check-ins that ensure the right level of challenge. Students must achieve a minimum of 200 points per week, which represents about 30 minutes of careful reading, regardless of the child's reading ability.

In Year 9, students will be reading student-friendly versions of GCSE texts *A Christmas Carol* and *Macbeth*, with scope in the Spring Term to also read other books.

Years 10 and 11 do not use Sparx Reader – they complete a weekly task for Language or Literature to develop GCSE knowledge and skills. Tasks are set as assignments on Teams, Monday to Monday.

Sparx Maths

Sparx personalises each child's homework, creating a weekly set of questions tailored to their level of understanding and learning pace. The questions are designed to be achievable whilst offering the stretch that learners need to make progress.

Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher, meaning that the majority of their homework questions will be what they are studying in class at that present time. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

Actively engaging with Sparx Maths has been proven to improve progress and grades in Maths, studies can be found on their website (Sparx Maths - Impact). It's important to note that Sparx can also be used for revision; searching up any topic will bring up instructional videos and support.

We understand, from time to time, students may struggle with part of their homework. Sparx Maths is set up with instructional videos to support in answering questions. Please can you encourage your child to watch the video as a first port of call. If they have tried this and still don't understand, please tell them to speak to their Maths teacher or email them directly.

Sparx Science

The platform provides personalised homework that promotes deep thinking about scientific knowledge to aid retention and recall, as well as providing tailored support to help every student get the correct answer.

Teachers will set topics recently covered in class, which will make up most of a student's homework, but will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce the learning.

Sometimes science questions may challenge students; however, where this is the case, Sparx provides support to fill knowledge gaps or guide them through application of scientific ideas.