

2 November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Sparx Maths - New Homework Platform Pilot**

In 2019 the HegartyMaths platform, which we have been using for students' maths homework, was purchased by Sparx learning. Sparx Maths has many areas similar to HegartyMaths, but takes it to the next level. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework. As a department we are moving both Year 7 and 10 students onto the platform as a pilot for the rest of the academic year. We will continue to use HegartyMaths for other year groups' homework, and for revision and follow-up strategies for assessments throughout this academic year.

Sparx Maths is backed by research from Cambridge University and has many added benefits to it, not least the completely personalised homework each student receives based upon their knowledge and confidence in maths.

We know you want to support your child's maths progress and we would ask you to [watch this short video presentation](#) about Sparx Maths and how the platform works. The information below is just a summary of the key points from the video presentation of how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that maths homework is 100% completed.

### **How does Sparx homework work?**

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 based upon our scheme of learning and will make up the majority of the homework questions (60%). Questions from previous topics (40%) will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned. Please note at the beginning students may find homework "easy". The algorithms take between 2 - 4 weeks to correctly adjust the levels according to each individual student.

### **How can I help my child with their homework?**

We appreciate that you will of course want to support your child with their home learning but please try not to help them with a question until they've had a go first! **It is really important**

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that they complete their homework independently, and that questions are marked as correct. They can watch the support video if they need to. This way, Sparx can make sure your child continues to see homework that's at the right level for them. Someone else completing their homework will result in harder less personalised questions being set for them compared to their level, resulting in homework taking longer.

### **Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory homework completion?**

Sparx Homework is deliberately designed to help students really get to grips with and understand the concepts and skills they are learning by ensuring they cover the essential building blocks needed to make progress in maths. Sparx' research ([sparx.co.uk/impact](https://sparx.co.uk/impact)) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress.

**As a school we have set Year 7 homework to be 30 minutes per week, and Year 10 homework to be 60 minutes as part of this pilot.** There are further options to complete additional work should a student wish to.

We will be highlighting to students to do their homework as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Homework is not marked as complete until all of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly, so starting early is key to finishing before hand-in time. The homework can be completed in one sitting, or in stages throughout the week. Homework will be set weekly.

Sparx has an inbuilt parental engagement function with a weekly email sent out 3 days before the homework is due, enabling you to keep track of your child's progress. Within this email are further details should you wish to amend the settings.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in maths to grow. As a department we are really excited to see the students' successes as we complete the pilot this academic year.

If you have any questions, please contact me ([amowforth@theweald.org.uk](mailto:amowforth@theweald.org.uk)) using Sparx Maths Pilot in the subject bar.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Andrew Mowforth  
Director of Mathematics