

Dear Parent/Carer

Sparx Maths and Reader

In order to support your child with their progress and revision in mathematics and reading, we are delighted to inform you that we will be using Sparx Maths as our homework platform again this year, with the addition of Sparx Reader as our platform for reading homework.

We will be using Sparx to set homework for all of our classes so that they get used to using the platform effectively. The idea is that this will then lead to our pupils completing meaningful and structured revision in the run up to assessments and, eventually, their GCSE exams. **Sparx homework will be set every Tuesday at 3pm and be due by the following Tuesday at 3pm.** Having a consistent due date proved to be very effective last year, and meant everyone knew when homework was due. The first maths homework for years 8 to 11 will be set on Tuesday 19th September, with Year 7 receiving their first homework on Tuesday 26th September once they've settled into their new maths classes.

As Sparx Reader is a new addition to our Sparx package, we want to make sure all pupils are confident in using it before setting it as homework. We will be in touch to let you know when the first Reader homework is set. To maintain consistency, Reader homework will be set on the same day as Sparx Maths and all standards and expectations will be the same.

So that your child gets the most out of Sparx Maths, it is important that they follow a couple of very simple steps which we'll go through with them in their maths lessons so they know our expectations:

- 1) Write down the 'bookwork codes' for each question, along with their working out and answers when completing the work. This can be done on paper at home, or we can provide them with a Sparx Maths book if required
- 2) Complete 100% of the questions - they are set at an appropriate level for each child so each pupil should be able to complete all of the questions
- 3) If they do struggle with a question, use the help videos which are available to support them

I appreciate that not everyone has access to the internet at all times which may make completing homework difficult for some. In order to help, we have drop-in sessions on a Monday and Tuesday lunchtime in U20 where all pupils are welcome to come and complete maths work and get help on anything they're struggling with. The school library is also open every day before school, at lunch and after school where there are computers for all pupils to use.

We want to create a positive culture around homework where pupils choose to come for help when they need it and I would be very grateful if you could encourage your child to take advantage of all of the support that is available to them. Unfortunately, there may be a small minority of pupils who choose not to complete the work. If Sparx is not completed by 3pm on the

Tuesday it is due, they will be placed on detention to complete the work after school the following day. You will receive a message to inform you of this.

We have set up a reward system to celebrate those who complete homework to a high standard and in a timely manner. Each week, pupils will receive a number of points depending on how early they complete 100% of their work. This will contribute to a termly average, where our top performers will be entered into a draw to win vouchers. There will also be class and form prizes along with regularly updated leaderboards that we'll share with you via our newsletter and Twitter!

Thank you for your continued support with your child's maths and English education. If you have any queries about Sparx, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind Regards

Mr C Malkin
Curriculum Leader for Mathematics