

WJS/jr
14 October 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian

We are delighted to let you know that from **31 October 2022** students will be completing their Maths self-study with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised Maths task.

We know that you want to support your child's Maths progress so we have put together this letter to explain how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that Maths self-study is 100% completed.

How does Sparx Self-Study work?

Sparx **personalises each child's self-study**, 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 and will make up the majority of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned. To support students with this work, all students are going to be asked to take their exercise books home for them to write working out and record their answers.

How can I help my child with their Self-Study?

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 that they complete their self-study 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 tasks that are at the right level for them.

Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory Self-Study completion?

Sparx self-study 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/evidence) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised Maths home learning leads to clear progress. As students build towards their GCSE studies where they are expected to complete an hour each week, throughout Year 7 and Year 8, we will be setting **30-minute compulsory tasks** each week for students to complete with extension work available as required. We advise students to do their self-study as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Self-study 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.

You can keep track of your child's self-study completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx.

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.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's Maths Teacher

Yours faithfully

Mr W Sleeman
Director of Learning for Maths