

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

6th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Sparx Maths

We are excited to inform you that students from Ken Stimpson Academy, across Year groups from Year 7 to Year 11, are now using **Sparx Maths** (<http://www.sparxmaths.uk>) to complete their weekly Maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level.

Your child's homework will be **set on Monday 9 am** and **due on the following Sunday 8 pm** every week.

We know many of you want to support your child's maths progress, so we are sending this letter to explain how Sparx works and how you can help your child complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Maths Homework?

- Sparx provides personalised homework to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- Most of each week's homework will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce student's learning.
- Students access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they'll get immediate feedback for each question. They will be told whether their answer is correct or if they need to have another try.
- All students have received an introduction to Sparx within their Maths lessons where they have logged on to help get them familiar with what they need to do
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly written homework and students should record their work in their workbooks. Sparx has a "bookwork check" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached so that your child can get help independently if needed.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.
- Encourage them to start their homework early so they can get help from their teacher before the deadline if they get stuck. To ensure no gaps form in your child's maths knowledge, homework is not marked as complete until all the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- Ensure students aim to achieve 100% on both the Compulsory and Target sections of their homework. This is the school expectation and will help students progress further in their Maths grades.
- Check the weekly email you'll get from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline (Sunday) if they haven't already done so.

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first. It is essential they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.

What support is available at Ken Stimpson Academy?

- The Maths department is running a Homework club every Monday and Friday lunchtime in computer room 3U23 where students will be able to access Sparx and start their homework so they will have less to do at home.
- Students can email or visit their class teacher to ask for support in addition to watching the videos.
- All students who complete their Sparx homework (100%) before 8 pm on a Sunday will be awarded a Silver Badge on ClassCharts.
- All students who consistently complete their Maths Homework before Sunday 8 pm will be put into a raffle at the end of the Term.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in growing your child's understanding, success, and confidence in Maths.

If you would like more information, please watch the video below or contact me via email where I would be more than happy to help.

Kind regards,

Mr J Corcoran

Head of Maths

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