

19th October 2023

Dear Parents, Carers

We are delighted to let you know that all students will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework. We know that you want to support your child's maths progress so we've put together this letter to explain how Sparx works, detail why it is important to make sure that maths homework is 100% completed and to invite you to our information evening.

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 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.

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 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.

We will also be hosting a parent/carer information evening to allow you to come into the Academy and hear directly from staff about the positive impact Sparx will have. Details of this evening and how to book your place are at the end of this letter.

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/evidence) has shown that an average of 60 minutes a week of this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress. It is therefore advised that students 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.

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

What if my child does not have access to a computer, or the internet at home?

There will be a fully staffed SPARX Homework club, which will run, from Wednesday 8th November, in IT3 every from 2:30pm

There is also additional support on offer at homework club, which runs Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in the Literacy Room.

Why is my child set homework?

Outwood City, as a part of the Outwood Grange Academies Trust, is committed to ensuring that all our students leave the Academy as well-rounded individuals, who make good choices which will improve the community and the world they live in. Homework completion is a part of the journey to explore and develop student choice making. Working outside of school for an hour a week improves resilience, independence and time management skills, as well as the benefits of increasing understanding, student attainment and progress.

Staff are working hard to ensure that students remember to complete their homework: they receive regular reminders from their teachers each lesson, with ongoing conversations around time spent and percentage to date; there are notices in assemblies as well as in form time.

Homework is set from 9:00am Thursday until 9:00am the following Thursday. This remains the same every week, so even if a student is absent for a short period of time they can still access their homework when they are well enough to return to school.

Students are encouraged to start their homework early, so that they can seek help and manage their time effectively.

Parent/Carer Information Evening

We will be hosting a Sparx information evening on Monday 30th October at 5:30pm. At the event we will go through what Sparx is, how you can support at home and our expectations around homework completion. If you would like to attend this information evening, we would ask that you confirm your attendance, including the name of your child(ren), by emailing s.delany@city.outwood.com no later than 3pm on Friday 27th October

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.

Yours faithfully

Samantha Delany

Head of Mathematics