

13th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

Sparx Maths Homework

We are excited to inform you that your child will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly Maths home learning this year. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed. We had a trial run of Sparx in the summer term last year to get our students familiar with the platform.

Your child's home learning will be set on Wednesday and due on the following Wednesday every week. This will begin from Wednesday 13th September for year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students, and then with year 7's the following week on Wednesday 20th September. This will allow the year 7's to complete the in-school training before their first home learning is set. Homework will be posted on Google Classroom with instructions and the due date.

We know 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 Home learning?

- Sparx provides personalised home learning to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- The majority of each week's home learning will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning.
- Students access their home learning on their online Sparx account, where they will get immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try.
- While home learning is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students will need to record their work in their new orange exercise books. This will be issued to all students when they are on-site. Year 8 and 10 students may complete their first homework task in their main blue exercise books. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached so that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Check that your child is able to log into the Sparx platform.
 - ◇ This can be done by following the link, <https://www.sparxmaths.uk/student/>,
 - ◇ selecting our school by typing Roding Valley in the search box,
 - ◇ and then clicking on the blue banner with the text "Log into Sparx using Google". Students may then be prompted to use their school Google login details.
 - ◇ If there are any issues, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible to get it resolved.
- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their home learning 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 of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- 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 if they haven't already done so.
- Please check your child is using their orange exercise books for all working out. They will be periodically asked to recall an answer for a previous question to check they are writing it down. Ultimately, students will need to write on paper for their GCSE exams.
- 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. Please do not tell your child you can't do it but rather ask their teacher for help or redirect them in the first instance. We would like to encourage resilience with students and ideally all stakeholders can model this positively.

Whilst we believe this is a fantastic platform and will enable our students to become better learners, we do understand that there will be times that further assistance will be needed. We will run a homework clinic every Tuesday afterschool in H3. Chromebooks will be provided if needed with the Maths team available to give support for those who need it. Students may, of course, use this space to complete their tasks with the confidence that their teachers are nearby ready to give support if needed.

If you require a Chromebook for your child to be able to complete the set work on Sparx, it may be possible for the school to provide one. Please contact the Progress Lead for your child's year group if a one is needed.

With some year groups learning from home, we understand that some students may wish to explore topics further. Once logged into Sparx, on the left-hand side students may select the "Independent Learning" tab which will allow student to search for any topics studied in class. This may be particularly useful for those who wish to deepen their understanding or to clarify a misconception or perhaps just simply keep up with any missed work due to any issues your child may have in joining the online lesson.

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 have any questions, please contact Mr Edeko at eedeko@rodingvalley.net or me at shrahman@rodingvalley.net.

Yours faithfully



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Coordinator



Mr O Edeko
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Ms P Larkin
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