

Hayle Academy

8th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to let you know that from **Monday 25th April** students will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework. Following careful consideration of student feedback and working in collaboration with our Trust secondary partnership schools, we have made the decision to move from Hegarty Maths to Sparx maths for all students in Years 7 to 10 inclusive. This is because of the added benefits of personalised homework tailored to each individual student at a level that is appropriate to them. Sparx' research (sparx.co.uk/evidence) has shown that time spent learning under this type of personalised maths home learning leads to clear progress. Students will be invited to provide feedback at the end of the summer term on this platform.

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 homework is 100% completed.

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.

This video will explain more about Sparx maths: [Sparx Maths Homework](#).

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.

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**. It is 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.

Why are there bookwork checks, and how do they work?

We believe that a good standard of bookwork is very important in helping students to embed good practice and to help them and their teachers to keep track of any misconceptions.

- In Sparx, every question is accompanied by a 'bookwork code'.
- Your child should write this down and then write their workings and answer next to the code.
- When they are asked for the answer they gave to a particular bookwork code, they need to give the exact answer they wrote down, even if it was wrong.
- Here's an example of good bookwork: as you can see all workings and wrong answers have been recorded:

The image shows a student's handwritten work on grid paper, divided into two sections: 'Task 1' and 'Task 2'. In 'Task 1', the student solves three problems: D40 (12 + 13 = 25, correct), E50 (4 x 3 + 2 x 5 = 22, correct), and E60 (12 : 18 = 2 : 3, correct). In 'Task 2', the student solves G61 (All the marbles are green. The probability of choosing a purple marble is impossible, correct). Other problems shown are H70 (1/14 + 1/7 = 2/7, incorrect) and J90 (1/8 + 1/4 = 1/8 + 2/8, incorrect). Green checkmarks indicate correct answers, and red X marks indicate incorrect answers.

- If a student fails a bookwork check in Sparx, they will need to re-do the question, even if they originally gave the correct answer. This is to encourage them to record their workings.

Getting logged in to Sparx

- Go to <https://sparx.co.uk>, click **login** in the top right corner, and select **student login**. Here they will be asked to start typing the name of the school before being prompted to select it from a dropdown list. If this is the first time your child has logged in, they will need to select **New Sparx User** and enter their name and their date of birth in order to confirm their username.
- They will then be asked to set their own password, which they will need to remember! Note: This password needs to contain at least six characters. The screen will inform them once their password passes this rule.
- If your child has forgotten their password, they should contact their teacher who will be able to reset it for them.

Your support in ensuring your child can log in to Sparx prior to **Monday 25th April** is appreciated.

You can keep track of your child's homework 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.

Further information and support on Sparx maths can be found on our website [here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me at lizi.mckenzie@hayleacademy.net.

Kind Regards

Lizi McKenzie

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