

## Sparx FAQs

We are hoping that if you have any questions about what Sparx is and how it works that you'll be able to find the answers below. If not, then please feel free to contact us.

### **What is Sparx?**

Sparx is an online homework platform for maths that offers personalised learning for each and every user. It follows our schemes of work to ensure that the homework set is relevant and purposeful. Using an intelligent algorithm it monitors how each student is doing and can adjust the difficulty of questions on offer to make sure that every student is appropriately challenged. For more information please use the video on the website.

### **How does my child access Sparx?**

Students access Sparx by going to this website (it can also be found easily through Google) and clicking log in as student. They then select their school and log on using their school email and the usual password for accessing teams/ email/ logging on to the school system.

[Sparx - Christ Church, Church of England Secondary Academy \(sparxmaths.uk\)](https://www.sparxmaths.uk)

### **My child has forgotten their password what should I do?**

The password for logging on is the same as the one they use at school for laptops and email and for teams. If students have forgotten it then please email their maths teacher/ form tutor and request a reset. It may be worth getting your child to write their password down and share it with you.

### **Why is it important that my child gets 100% on every homework?**

To be successful at maths you require strong foundations to build upon. Sparx is designed in such a way to tailor the level of difficulty to your student. If the homework is too easy it will be made harder, if it's too hard it becomes easier.

We have started all classes at a level below where they should be. There are videos to help and teachers are on hand too. By regularly achieving 100% it has been shown that students make the most progress.

### **Why is it important that my child has to make notes when doing the homework?**

Making notes serves three main purposes. The first is that it is a good habit for students to get into in preparation for sitting their exams. The second is that by having a record of working out and answers it allows us as teachers to help students that have gotten stuck on a particular question. Without working we cannot diagnose what the mistake is and how to fix it.

The third reason is that the latest research into maths education suggests that formally structuring work and following strict methods actually improves the deeper understanding of mathematics.

A video on the book checks employed by Sparx can be found on our website too, underneath the parent video.

### **My child's homework timetable says that maths is set on a different day to when it actually is. Why is this?**

The research conducted by Sparx shows that setting homework in the middle of the week boosts student engagement and success as it provides more time for them to seek out teachers for help and for parents and teachers to nag!

Students are still of course welcome to do the homework on the day assigned in their homework planner.

### **Can my child do more Sparx than is set each week?**

Of course. Students can do both the XP boost and target sections which can give up to an extra hour of maths practice each week. For each section of their homework that they complete they will receive a commendation.

### **We do not have access to a laptop at home.**

Sparx runs on tablets and phones.

CCSA will be running a homework club in short order. Keep your ears peeled for more details.

If device access is going to be a regular issue please contact your child's maths teacher and we can look at putting support in place

### **What can I do to support my child?**

The best thing to do is to provide a quiet place and set aside time each week for your child to do the homework. Each week Sparx will send you an email to let you know if your child has finished the homework, this will help you encourage them to do so.

### **What should my child do if they get stuck?**

Each question has a video specific to the question type (just with different numbers). Get your child to watch the video and reattempt the question. This will get them "unstuck".

If they have watched the video and attempted the question several times, they can bring their homework book to the teacher who will be able to help them. Teachers can see who has watched the video and will not help unless it has been watched. This is to encourage our learners to be independent and develop revision skills that will help them in future years! This is why we encourage students to start their homework sooner rather than later so that they can access this staff help.

### **How do you know Sparx is effective?**

Independent researchers from the University of Cambridge and RAND maths have shown that using Sparx for 1 hour per week significantly improves grades. This links to the research behind Sparx and why we are committed to using it to improve outcomes for our students at CCSA:

[Microsoft Word - Independent Analysis of the Relationship Between Sparx Maths and Maths Outcomes key findings FINAL.docx \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)