

WALTON LEDALE HIGH SCHOOL



Brindle Road | Bamber Bridge | Nr. Preston | PR5 6RN

TEL 01772 335726 | FAX 01772 339494

HEADTEACHER James Harris | head@waltonledale.lancs.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted to let you know that from this week students will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths – www.sparx.co.uk. Sparx is an exciting online platform which is replacing HegartyMaths and which offers every student a **personalised** maths homework each week, tailored to their individual needs.

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 based on the lessons being taught in class, and these will make up the majority of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be automatically 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. If they are finding a question difficult they can watch the support video if they need to, and giving them help with understanding what to do is fine of course – but they should be completing the actual questions themselves. This way, Sparx can make sure your child continues to see homework that's at the right level for them and not you!

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 (though initially we will be starting with 40 minute homeworks whilst students get used to the system). 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. Unlike on HegartyMaths, if a student gets a question wrong they only need to repeat that particular question to improve, not repeat the entire task. 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.

If you have any questions, please email your child's maths teacher or contact the main school email who will forward the enquiry on.

Kind regards

P Carr

Mr P Carr
Head of Mathematics