



Friday 25 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is fantastic to see how well our Year 7s are settling into their curriculum at NLS and enjoying the variety of lesson on offer. Having spent the first few week getting to know our Year 7 students and completing some baseline assessments, we have now utilised this information alongside relevant Key Stage 2 results to create some new groupings in two subject areas.

In Maths we have utilised this information alongside the Key Stage 2 results to create some initial teaching groups that are tailored to students' current learning needs and in PE students have been split into two groups that best suit their ability following a range of baseline sporting activities.

From week commencing Monday 28 September students will arrive to their current groups as normal and their teacher will organise them moving to their new groups. Early next week in tutor time, students will receive an updated version of their timetable with this information on, and it will be available on Go4Schools from Monday.

Maths Groupings

We regularly review the groupings in maths, as we develop a broader picture of each student's progress. This means that, as the year goes on, some students may move groups to ensure they are appropriately stretched or supported. Our priority is to make sure every child makes the best possible progress.

Although students are placed into groups, they will all broadly study the same topics, building on knowledge from Key Stage 2. The difference lies in the starting point and level of challenge within each set, ensuring the work is pitched appropriately for every learner.

Learning Journeys and Curriculum overviews can be viewed on our website under the Learn tab then Curriculum, and are also linked here for ease [Maths Learning Journey](#) and the [Curriculum Overview](#).

SPARX Mathematics – Our Online Learning Platform

Mathematics homework will follow a three-week cycle:

- First week: 30 min SPARX Mathematics online homework
- Second week: 30 min SPARX Mathematics online homework
- Third week: 30 min written (paper-based) homework which students will complete at home, bring into school and then it will be marked in school

This approach allows us to harness the proven benefits of SPARX while deliberately building in a screen-free written task every third week. This promotes healthy study habits, allows for revision of key skills, and gives students a break from screens.

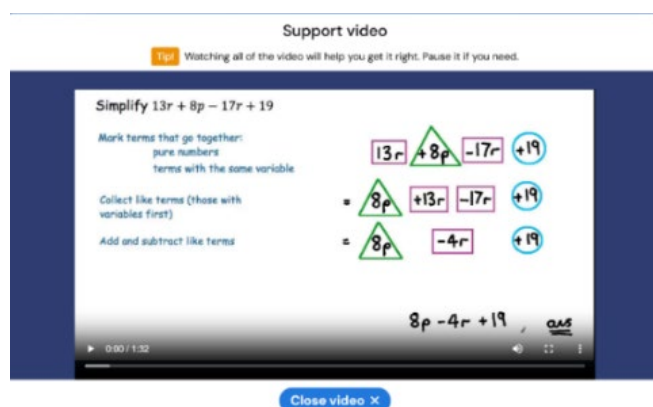
Each SPARX session is designed to take approximately 30 minutes, including tasks linked to your child's current classroom learning as well as interleaved questions that revisit and reinforce previously learnt content. Some students may complete their work slightly quicker or spend longer if they choose to explore optional additional tasks. These extra questions appear automatically once the core homework is completed and offer a great way to consolidate or stretch learning. Teachers may also

direct students to optional work if beneficial and they have full visibility of all work completed, including the time spent, the topics covered and any additional questions attempted.

Students will be taken to computer rooms in lessons week commencing 28 September, so they can be supported with logging in and practice accessing a homework. Following this students will be able to access from home

Why SPARX Mathematics?

It is a personalised online platform that sets homework tailored to each child's ability, supports independent learning through short video tutorials, and provides instant feedback. SPARX helps close gaps in understanding, builds confidence, and promotes a growth mindset. Parents can log in at any time to see how their child is doing and digest their effort, progress and areas of strength and where improvements can be made. The platform allows you access to stay involved and celebrate your child's achievements.



Example of video demonstration from SPARX Mathematics

How students receive feedback

Students receive ongoing feedback via SPARX. This will include instant right/wrong responses, retry options and short help videos when they get stuck. These videos are extremely useful and we strongly encourage students to use them whenever needed. In addition, teachers review performance each week and address misunderstandings in lessons or through targeted support.

The SPARX "Book Check" feature also encourages healthy study habits by prompting students to record their working as they go. At certain points, SPARX will ask them to recall a previous answer (for example, after question 7 it may ask for the answer to question 1) so students will need to ensure they have made a written record of their work in their Mathematics book.

Written homework (every third week) will be completed in exercise books and marked in class. This ensures key skills are reinforced and students clearly present their mathematical thinking.

How You Can Help

Parents are strongly encouraged to support their child when completing SPARX homework. This is a great opportunity to explore the platform together; you'll see the user interface, the style of questioning, and how it works. We're confident you'll find it both useful and enriching.

You can also:

- Check-ins: Ask your child to show you their SPARX progress
- Encourage good habits: Aim for steady effort rather than a last-minute rushing
- Celebrate effort: SPARX awards XP points and certificates — parental praise also goes a long way!

- Non-SPARX paper homework: Every third week, please remind your child to complete in their Non-SPARX homework to the best of their ability and stick into their yellow exercise book.

Practical Details

- What is the website address? Please use <https://www.sparxmathematics.com/>
How can SPARX be accessed? The platform can be accessed via tablet, mobile, PC, or MAC.
- Log-ins: Students use their Microsoft login (the same as used to log on to school's systems) to access SPARX.
- Technical issues? Email bsigmundsson@northleamington.co.uk or ask your child to speak to their mathematics teacher.
- Students can also access SPARX at school in the Mathematics homework space, which will run every Thursday at 3:30pm on the Mathematics floor.

We believe this blended approach will build strong mathematical foundations, boost confidence, and keep screen time in balance.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning journey. We are excited to see what they will achieve this academic year. With your support at home and our efforts in school, we believe every student will make great progress.

If you have any queries about the above information, please get in touch in the first instance with Mr. B Sigmundsson (Key Stage 3 Maths Coordinator) bsigmundsson@northleamington.co.uk or Mr. M Brannan (Subject Leader PE) mbrannan@northleamington.co.uk.

Yours sincerely

Ms. M. Foy
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