



Friday 5 September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: SPARX Mathematics – New Online Learning Platform

Welcome to the new academic year. We are delighted to be teaching your child in Year 8 Maths and look forward to working in partnership with you to help every student thrive.

As a school we are always reviewing our practices, and this year following parental and student feedback, and extensive research, we have decided to introduce an on-line element to homework in Maths using a market leading product web-based product called SPARX.

Why SPARX Mathematics?

We are very excited to be introducing SPARX Mathematics. It is a personalised online platform that sets homework both linked to current classroom learning and tailored to each child's ability. SPARX 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.

Our Blended Homework Approach

From this year, Year 8 Maths homework will follow a new 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. Extra questions appear automatically once the core homework is completed and offer a great way to consolidate or stretch learning. This means that even if students complete their core work slightly quicker, there will always be suitable material for them to carry on with for the remainder of the 30 minute homework time. Students may of course spend longer on SPARX if they wish and teachers may also direct students to other work if beneficial. Teachers have full visibility of all work completed, including the time spent, the topics covered and any additional questions attempted.

How students receive homework 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/Carers 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.uk/>
- How can SPARX be accessed? The platform can be accessed via tablet, mobile, PC, or MAC.
- Log-ins: Students will receive their username and password in school – they will need to remember this.
- Technical issues? Email sparx@northleamington.co.uk or ask your child to speak to their Maths 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 in advance for supporting your child’s learning journey in Maths.

Kind regards

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