

9th February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

New Key Stage 3 Online Home Learning Platform: Sparx Maths

We are delighted to let you know that from after the February Half Term break, Year 8 and 9 pupils will be completing their Maths home learning with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every pupil personalised Maths home learning. 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 home learning is fully completed.

How does Sparx home learning work?

Sparx **personalises each child's home learning**, 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 home learning questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the home learning so that pupils can keep practising the skills they have learned.

How can I help my child with their home learning?

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 have had a go first. It is **really important that pupils complete their home learning 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 home learning that is at the right level for them.

Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory home learning completion?

Sparx home learning is deliberately designed to **help pupils 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. It is therefore advised that pupils do their home learning as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Home learning 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.

You can keep track of your child's home learning 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. [This video](#) will explain Sparx in further detail. For further tips for parents/carers, please [click this link](#).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school by email to speak to Mrs Alison Blacow (alison.blacow@astreaernulf.org) or Miss Naveen Rizvi (naveen.rizvi@Astreaacademytrust.org)

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naveen Rizvi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'N'.

Miss Naveen Rizvi
National Lead of Mathematics

