

## Sparx Maths

**Website:** <https://sparxmaths.com/>

**How do students login?** Using their school-issued Microsoft 365 login

**Frequency:** Weekly

**Time required:** Approximately 30 mins (Years 7-9), 40 mins (Year 10) and 1 hour (Year 11) for compulsory tasks (additional optional tasks are also available)

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An important way for students to get better at Mathematics is by becoming more fluent in solving common types of problem. Weekly Maths practice means students gain confidence in remembering the Maths that they have learned, which makes it easier for them to learn new, more advanced topics.

Sparx Maths is a platform that allows your child to practice solving Maths questions and find out straight away whether they have got them right. All the topics will be things that they have already learned from their teacher. They can get further help by watching short videos about each question if they cannot remember how to do it for themselves. Students should use their Maths exercise book to do the written working for each question, and then once they have written the final answer, enter it into the Sparx platform to check.

### Supporting with Sparx Maths

The topics set on Sparx Maths are chosen by your child's teacher, but the exact questions are chosen by the platform so that each child gets about an hour per week of questions at a suitable level of challenge. If your child cannot answer a question, Sparx will tell them to "SEEK HELP". When this happens, you can show them how to do the question yourself, or they can ask their Maths teacher for help during the school day, or during Study Hall. Please do not help your child with the questions before they have tried by themselves and been told to seek help, or they might get harder questions next time because Sparx thinks that they got them right by themselves.

Students need to get all the questions on the homework right for it to count as completed (they can try each question as many times as they need to). This is so that the homework helps them to improve rather than just showing them what they already can and cannot do. Because of this, please encourage your child to start their homework early in the week so that they have time to ask for help from their teacher if they discover any questions that they cannot do by themselves.

In the last couple of years, we have noticed a growing trend in students attempting to get homework answers from AI (Artificial Intelligence) chatbots. This is usually not the

most useful way for them to make progress, as even when chatbots are able to provide step-by-step explanations, they are often not pitched at a level where students will understand them. If your child has a smartphone, make sure that they leave it out of sight and out of reach while working on homework, and check that they do not have any other browser tabs open.