

Sparx Science

Website: <https://sparxscience.com/>

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

Frequency: Weekly

Time required: 30 minutes (KS3) and 60 minutes (KS4)

Science involves learning how to use a large amount of subject specific vocabulary accurately to explaining cause and effect in a clear and logical way. Regular practice at using keywords and explaining phenomena is the best way to build student's confidence in their scientific understanding. We know that when building secure knowledge, regular practice of both recent and more distant lesson content is the most effective approach.

Sparx Science provides a similar platform to Sparx Maths. Each week students are set a range of questions on topics that they have studied either this year or in previous years. Where students struggle with a question, they will be provided with some support in the form of either a bit of reteaching or an animation to help with visual explanations. They will then be asked questions that build them up to the original question that they found challenging. If students are unable to answer a question after a certain number of attempts, they will be able to move on to the next question. Students are expected to attempt all questions.

Supporting with Sparx Science

Just like in Sparx Maths, the topics set on Sparx Science are chosen by your child's teacher, but the exact questions are chosen by the platform so that each child gets questions at a suitable level of challenge. If your child cannot answer a question, Sparx will take students through the understanding that they need to answer the question. After a short pause, they will then get another chance to answer a scaffolded version of the original question that takes them through the problem step-by-step. When this happens, you can show them how to do the question yourself, they can ask their Science teacher for help during the school day, or they can seek support during Study Hall. Please do not help your child with the questions before they have tried by themselves and been taken through the key knowledge, 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. 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.

Again, please be aware of the use of students attempting to get homework answers from AI chatbots. 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.