



September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

YEARS 7 TO 11: SPARX INDEPENDENT STUDY MATHEMATICS PROGRAMME

I am writing to inform you of the new home learning mathematics programme that we will be moving to called Sparx.

For some time now our students have been completing their mathematics independent study with Hegarty Maths. We are very pleased with the positive impact this platform has had with our students' independent study, but now feel that Sparx can offer more bespoke learning to each student here at Seaford Head School. Sparx have been working with Hegarty Maths to create a journey that allows all students to be successful at mathematics, with content that is achievable and challenging. Please watch the following video for more information on this <https://rb.gy/odyb4g>

After a trial run with our current Year 11 it was clear that this programme was having a positive impact on student retention and engagement with Independent Study. Therefore, we will be commencing our first Independent Study task on Sparx on 16 of September. This is an exciting, online platform which offers every student a set of personalised mathematics questions.

We know that you want to support your child's mathematics progress so we've put together this letter to explain how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that mathematics independent study is one hundred per cent completed.

How does Sparx Independent Study work?

Sparx **personalises each child's Independent Study**, 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 mathematics teacher and will make up the majority of the Independent Study questions. Those from previous topics will be included in the Independent Study so that students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

How can I help my child with their Independent Study?

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've had a go first! It is **really important that they complete their tasks 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 independent study that's at the right level for them.

Seaford Head Academy Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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Why does my child need to achieve 100% compulsory Independent Study completion?

Sparx Independent Study is deliberately designed to **help students 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 mathematics.** Sparx' research (<https://sparxmaths.com/impact>) has shown that an average of sixty minutes a week of this type of personalised mathematics home learning leads to clear progress. It is, therefore, advised that students do their Independent study as early as possible, so they have time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher, if needed. Independent Study 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 independent study completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx.

For further guidance and top tips, please read 'Sparx Top Tips for Parents' <https://rb.gy/09lzdv> .

When does the Independent study get set and when is it due in?

To help students and families within our community with consistency, we have decided that all Mathematics Independent Study for Years 7 to 11 will be handed out to be due in on a Friday. **For example, the first Independent study task will go out on Friday 16 September at 4.00pm: it will then be due in the following Friday 23 September at 3.00pm.** This will continue to happen throughout the year and you will receive a weekly email, updating you on how your child is progressing with their independent study in mathematics.

What support can my child receive?

Throughout our trial phase, we organised lunch time sessions which students could attend in order to receive help with their Independent Study. Due to the popularity of these sessions, we will continue to offer them. On Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays, they will run at the Arundel site in Room 14 for Years 9 to 11 and on the Steyne site in Room P for Years 7 and 8.

We hope you agree that Sparx will play an exciting and important role in helping your child's understanding, success and confidence in mathematics to grow.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. deanhooker@seafordhead.org

Yours sincerely



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