

7 September 2022

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horbury.accordmat.org

Dear Parent/Carer,

Principal: Mrs N Walker

SPARX Maths Homework – Years 7 - 10 Pupils

We are delighted to let you know that from 19 September 2022 pupils in Y7 to 10 will be completing their maths homework with **Sparx Maths**. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every pupil a personalised maths homework.

We know that as parents/carers you will wish to support your child's maths progress as much as you can and this letter aims to provide you with all the information you will need to continue to do that. We will explain below how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that maths homework is always 100% completed.

How does Sparx homework work?

Sparx personalises each child's homework, 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. The program learns what level of homework is appropriate for each child, therefore it may take a few weeks to match the needs of each individual learner.

Each week, topics are set by your child's maths teacher and will make up the majority of the homework questions. Questions from previous topics will also be included in the homework so that pupils can keep practising the skills they have learned.

Does Sparx have access to my child's personal data?

The Accord Multi Academy Trust acts as Data Controller with regard to pupil information. As Data Controller we process information in order to allow us to meet legal requirements and legitimate interests set out in the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and UK Law. You have previously consented to the Trust sharing data with third parties where a legitimate interest applies and a data sharing agreement is in place, in order for the academy to fulfil its responsibilities in relation to the provision of education, pupil attainment and assessment reporting and teaching mathematics to our pupils. Sparx falls into this category. The Trust has entered a Data Sharing Agreement with Sparx that adheres to GDPR regulations. For further information on our privacy notices please go to <https://accordmat.org/keyinformation/>.

How can I keep track of whether my child has completed the homework on Sparx?

You can keep track of your child's homework completion in a weekly email received direct from Sparx. This email will be sent to the parent/carers with parental responsibility as recorded on our Management Information System (Bromcom). Please check that your parental contact details are correct on MCAS and if they need updating you can do this by contacting enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org or by doing this yourself on the MCAS App (further details on how to do this will be launched to all parents/carers over the coming weeks).

What if I prefer not to receive these emails from Sparx?

If you would prefer not to receive emails from Sparx please contact enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org and we will ensure your email contact details are removed from their system.

How can I help my child with their Sparx homework?

We appreciate that you will of course want to support your child with their homework but please try not to help them with a question until they have had a go first! It is **really important that they complete their homework 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 homework that is at the right level for them.

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

Sparx homework 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 <https://sparx.co.uk/impact> 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 homework as early as possible, so they have the time to have a go themselves and seek help from their teacher if needed. Homework 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.

Where can I find out more details?

For further details and parents' top tips please see the video at the link provided below and also the attached parents' guide:

https://f.hubspotusercontent30.net/hubfs/5530880/KB%20Resources%20Summer%202021/Parent%20video_v2.mp4.

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

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the academy at enquiries@horbury.accordmat.org.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Greenwood
Deputy Curriculum Leader of Mathematics