3rd February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to let you know that from ***7th February 2022*** students in Year 9 will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student a personalised maths homework. We believe the transition to Sparx Maths will offer an enhanced foundation for all current Year 9 students in preparation for the start of their GCSE study in Year 10.

As you know, for some time now our students have been completing their maths homework with Hegarty Maths and we are delighted with the significant, positive impact on learning this has had so far.We know that you want to support your child’s maths progress so we’ve put together this letter to explain how Sparx works.

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. 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 students can keep practising the skills they have learned.

During lessons students have been shown by their teacher how to access and use the Sparx website and also how they are to display their work in their books. The main difference for students is that they will no longer make notes from the topic videos; instead they will engage in Sparx bookwork checks. Homework will still be completed in their homework book.

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 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’s at the right level for them.

Sparx Homework 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 maths. It is advised that students do their homework as early as possible each week, 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.

You can keep track of your child’s homework completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx and 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 contact me at d.gradwell@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Mr D Gradwell – Assistant Subject Leader - Maths