

27<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to let you know that from **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022** students will be completing their maths homework with Sparx Maths. Sparx is an exciting online platform that offers every student personalised maths homework.

We know that you want to support your child's maths progress, so we have put together this letter to explain how Sparx works and why it is important to make sure that maths homework is 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.

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 practicing the skills they have learned.

#### **How can I help my child with their homework?**

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 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 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**. Sparx' research ([sparx.co.uk/evidence](https://sparx.co.uk/evidence)) 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 students 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.

You can keep track of your child's homework completion in the weekly email you will receive from Sparx.

For your child to have access to this package we are asking for a one-off payment through ParentPay. This is a cost of **£6.00 per child** which will **cover the entire time** that your child is a

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student at St Michael's. If **you are in receipt of free school meals (FSM)** from September 2021. the subscription will be provided to your child free of charge.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Smith or Mr Hickling in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Mr Smith  
**Deputy Assistant Headteacher for Numeracy**