



Good afternoon Year 11 Parents/Carers,

I am writing to reintroduce our Year 11 Science homework platform for this academic year and, in particular, to explain the importance of SPARX Science and how you can support your child with this.

What is SPARX Science?

SPARX Science is an online learning platform that we will be using regularly throughout Year 11 to support pupils with their GCSE Science studies.

The tasks are designed to help pupils recall and retain scientific knowledge, practise applying what they have learnt and identify areas where they need further support. These are particularly important skills as pupils work towards their GCSE examinations.

Our recent analysis of the Science GCSE results highlighted that recall and retention of previously taught content is an important area for development. Pupils need regular opportunities to revisit knowledge rather than relying on revision immediately before examinations. We are therefore increasing our use of SPARX Science as part of our strategy to strengthen independent practice and exam preparation.

When will SPARX homework be set?

A new SPARX Science homework will be set every Friday at 3:00pm.

Pupils will then have one week to complete the task, with the deadline being the following Friday at 8:00am.

At 8:00am on the Friday deadline, Science teachers will check whether pupils have participated in and completed their SPARX homework. If a pupil has not participated in the homework, the system will automatically send a text message home to you, informing you of this.

This weekly cycle will continue throughout the academic year, excluding half term breaks.

Why is completing SPARX so important?

Year 11 is a crucial year, and regular independent practice will make a significant difference to pupils' ability to remember and apply their scientific knowledge in their examinations.

SPARX allows pupils to practise independently and provides them with repeated opportunities to revisit important content. This is particularly valuable because our analysis has shown that pupils need continued opportunities to strengthen their recall and application of scientific knowledge. We are also placing a particular emphasis on supporting pupils around the Grade 4 and Grade 5 boundaries, where relatively small improvements can have a significant impact on their final GCSE outcomes. SPARX will therefore form an important part of our work to support pupils in making the progress they are capable of making.

How can you support your child?

We would really appreciate your support in making SPARX a regular part of your child's weekly routine.

Please encourage your child to:

- Log into SPARX every Friday and check their new homework.
- Complete the task independently and to the best of their ability.
- Avoid leaving the homework until the final morning.
- Ask their Science teacher for help if they are unsure about anything.
- Check that the task has been successfully completed before the **Friday 8:00am deadline**.

If your child is experiencing any problems logging into SPARX, they must let their Science teacher know ahead of the deadline. Pupils are aware that they are not wait until the deadline has passed to report a technical issue.

Our expectation is that every Year 11 pupil takes responsibility for completing their weekly Science homework. However, your encouragement at home can make a huge difference in helping them establish these habits now.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Robinson

Head of Science