



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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Dear Parent and Student,

As we start the new Academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to go through our homework expectations in order to support our students in getting the very most out of them. We firmly believe that the homework programme we have in place will encourage our students to be successful, independent learners and will set them up for success in their examinations and beyond.

Our homework schedule can be thought of in four parts:

1. Knowledge Organiser homeworks in English, Science, History, French and Geography.
2. Sparx Maths homework, initially an hour, consisting of personalised Maths content reinforcing work on the current topic.
3. An additional 30 minutes' homework that sits alongside their core, humanities and French set by their teacher appropriate to their option choices.
4. As directed there may be vocational homework set according to key course priorities at certain points in the year.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Maths Sparx	English	Science	History	French	Geography

We are pleased to be able to confirm that the library will now be open each day after school until 4:15pm in order to provide a quiet study space for students who would like to use this facility.

Knowledge Organiser Homeworks

As we work through the year, students will use a range of revision techniques to support their homework. These will include techniques such as: Mind Maps & Retrieval Clocks, Cue/Flash Cards, Leitner Method, Past Papers, Mark Schemes and Examiners Reports, Self-Quizzing (SQ), Acronyms, Skeleton Essay Technique, Test your knowledge and Mnemonics.

Maths Homeworks

We are excited to inform you that this year, we will be using Sparx Maths to complete their weekly maths homework. Sparx provides a highly personalised weekly homework to students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed.

Your child's homework will be set on Tuesday and due on the following Monday every week.

We know you want to support your child's maths progress, so I hope the below explains how Sparx works and how you can help your child complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Maths Homework?

- Sparx provides personalised homework to each child, with questions that are challenging yet achievable, and tailored to their learning needs.
- The majority of each week's homework will be based on recently learnt topics, but it will also include some questions from previous topics to help reinforce their learning.
- Students access their homework on their online Sparx account, where they'll get immediate feedback for each question about whether their answer was correct or they need to have another try.
- While homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students should record their work in their workbooks. Sparx has a "bookwork checks" system to help students form this habit.
- Every question in Sparx has a support video attached to it, so that your child can get help independently.

How can you help your child with their homework?

- Provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their homework each week.
- Encourage them to start their homework early so they can get help from their teacher before the deadline if they get stuck. To ensure no gaps form in your child's maths knowledge, homework is not marked as complete until all of the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- Check the weekly email you'll get from Sparx and praise your child for starting or completing their homework. Encourage them to finish it before the deadline if they haven't already done so.
- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first. It is essential they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level for them. Remember they can watch the support videos if they need to.

What support is available?

- Students are able to use the library and school chromebooks after school until 4:00pm each day.
- Should a student get stuck with a maths problem, the Sparx site has support videos to walk them through the process. In addition, a member of the Maths Team will be in the Library on a Tuesday for any students still having difficulties.

We believe that excellence is a habit, and we want to instil excellent learning habits in our students to lead them to successful outcomes and will open doors in their future. We fully appreciate your support in ensuring that your child meets our expectations to enable them to do this.

Should you have any questions regarding any aspect of homework, please contact via your child's Year Group Pastoral Contact Form and your enquiry will be directed to myself or the relevant member of subject staff.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Alison Winsborough
Head of Church Ope House
Assistant Principal in charge of Teaching and Learning