



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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15th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

As we start the new academic year, I wanted to take the opportunity to go through our homework expectations for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in order to support our students in getting the very most out of their learning. We firmly believe that the homework programme we have in place will encourage our students to become independent learners and will set them up for success in their examinations and beyond.

Our homework schedule can found below, and comprises a mixture of the following:

1. Self-quizzing Knowledge Organiser homeworks in English, History, French and Geography.
2. The online platform 'Sparx' for Maths and for Science homeworks.
3. Some longer task-based homeworks for some subjects (interspersed with the self-quizzing tasks). These are outlined in the Knowledge Organiser that has been given to your child.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekend
Sparx Maths (1 hour)	English	Sparx Science (30 minutes)	History	MFL	Geography

Knowledge Organiser Homeworks:

A Knowledge Organiser is a collection of knowledge which your child's teacher has selected as 'essential'. This knowledge has been broken down into small, manageable segments within each unit of work and forms the foundation of the knowledge they will need to be successful in that unit. Knowledge Organisers are important because they give students clarity about what needs to be learnt through self-quizzing. Once the pieces of information on the Knowledge Organiser have been learnt, classwork will become easier as students will be able to understand and access more knowledge due to the way in which the memory works. Information on effective self-quizzing can be found [here](#).

Maths Homeworks:

Sparx Maths is an online platform that provides a highly personalised weekly homework for students, tailored to their attainment level and working speed. Your child's homework will be set on Tuesday morning and due by the following Monday evening each week.

Science Homeworks:

Science homeworks are set through Sparx Science, which is online. Like Sparx Maths, the learning will be tailored to your child. Your child's science homework will be set on Thursday morning and due the following Wednesday evening each week.

What is Sparx?

- 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.
- For maths only, whilst homework is accessed online, it is predominantly a written homework and students should record their work in their workbooks. Sparx Maths has a 'bookwork checks' system to help students form this habit.



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- Every question in Sparx Maths has a support video attached to it, so that your child can get help independently. For Sparx Science, there is an 'I don't know' button which will then give support with the question.

Maths and Science homework clubs run in the week, which your child is welcome to attend to complete their homework. For incomplete Sparx Maths and Sparx Science, detentions will be set by the Subject teachers. During this detention your child will be given support with completing the missed work.

How can you help your child with their Sparx 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, should they get stuck.
- To ensure no gaps form in your child's 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?

- More information on how to use Sparx can be found on these information sheets: [Sparx Maths](#) [Sparx Science](#)
- Students are able to join homework club, use the library and school chromebooks after school until 4:15pm each day.
- Should a student get stuck with a maths or science problem, and find they are still struggling after using the online support videos and questions, they can attend after school sessions in the week: a member of the Maths team will be available on a **Tuesday**, and for Science on a **Wednesday**, to offer support and guidance for your child.

We believe that excellence is a habit, and we want to instil positive learning habits in our students to lead them to successful outcomes. We fully appreciate your support in ensuring that your child meets their potential.

If you have any questions, please submit a Pastoral Contact Form detailing your child's House, and your enquiry will be directed to the relevant member of staff.

Yours faithfully,

Ms S Ives
Assistant Principal - Curriculum