Atlantic Academy Portland

A Parent & Student Guide to Sparx Science

Helping students work independently, use feedback well and strengthen their science knowledge.

What is Sparx Science?

Sparx Science is the online platform used for weekly Science homework. It gives students questions linked to their science learning, provides feedback and explanations, and revisits knowledge over time.

The key message: Sparx homework is not just about getting an answer right. Students learn by attempting questions, using the support available and responding to feedback.

What are the homework expectations?

Sparx Science homework is set weekly and Wednesday is the Science homework deadline. Students should complete their homework in good time rather than leaving it until the deadline.

Years 7-9	Years 10-11
1 hour of purposeful work	1 hour of purposeful work

Students access Sparx through their school Google account using 'Sign in with Google'. Their work is completed within Sparx; there is no requirement to copy questions into an exercise book.

If the expected time is reached: Students should have worked purposefully and used the support within Sparx. If they are repeatedly unable to complete the task within the expected time, please contact the school so that we can support them.

A good Sparx Science homework routine

Step 1	**LOG IN**	Open Sparx Science through the school account and check the homework that is due.
Step 2	**ATTEMPT**	Read the question carefully and have a genuine attempt. Do not rush or guess simply to move on.
Step 3	**USE SUPPORT**	If stuck, use the help, explanation or 'I don't know' support available within Sparx.
Step 4	**LEARN**	Read the feedback carefully. Work out what needs to change before trying again.
Step 5	**KEEP GOING**	Continue purposefully until the homework is complete or the expected working time has been reached.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

The most useful support is to help your child think - not to give them the answer.

If your child says, 'I don't know...'

Try saying: 'Show me what the question is asking.' • 'What do you already know?' • 'Which support could you use?' • 'What did the feedback tell you?' • 'Can you explain the answer to me now?'

Do...

- Know that Wednesday is the Science homework deadline and encourage your child to start before the last minute.
- Provide a quiet place and enough uninterrupted time to work.
- Encourage your child to read questions and feedback carefully.
- Ask them to explain a science idea or new fact to you in their own words.
- Praise persistence, careful thinking and using feedback - not just a high score.
- Contact school if your child is regularly struggling to access or complete the work.

Avoid...

- Giving your child the answer or completing questions for them.
- Turning homework into a race to reach 100%. The learning comes from thinking, correcting and trying again.
- Assuming that getting something wrong is a problem. Mistakes and feedback are an important part of learning.

Accessibility and additional needs

Students may benefit from the visual explanations, scaffolding and repeated practice available within online learning. Browser or device accessibility tools may also be helpful where appropriate.

Important: If your child has an additional need and is finding Sparx difficult to access, please contact the school. We can help identify the most appropriate support rather than expecting families to solve access difficulties alone.

Need help?

Science Lead	Mrs Migliari
School contact	Please use the Pastoral Contact Form on the school website.
Sparx support	Use the Sparx Science Help pages for technical or platform support.

Final reminder: Encourage effort over perfection. Check that homework is underway, but let your child lead. Independent thinking and learning from feedback are the goal.