



3 October 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians

Launch of Sparx Reader for Year 7

We are delighted to let you know that we are launching *Sparx Reader* with our Year 7 students. This is an exciting new tool designed to encourage regular reading, support literacy development, and build the habits that lead to long-term academic success.

During the opening weeks of this term, students have been introduced to *Sparx Reader* in school and have completed an initial test. This test allows the programme to identify each child's starting level and ensures that the reading texts they are offered are carefully matched to their ability. Students log in to *Sparx Reader* using the same login details that they already use for *Sparx Maths* in the Maths department.

After completing the initial test, students are offered a choice of four books to read - students can change books if they are not enjoying their chosen text. The programme is designed to ensure careful reading: after each section of a book, students are asked to answer 3–4 comprehension questions to check understanding and engagement with the text.

Each Tuesday Year 7 students will be set their weekly homework, via their English class on Classcharts. Each assignment will ask them to gain a minimum of **300 Sparx points** through reading on the programme. They will have one week to complete the task, with a new assignment set every Tuesday.

Students are able, and are encouraged, to go beyond the minimum 300 points each week. Those who continue to read carefully after completing their homework can earn **Gold Reader points**. Over time, this contributes to a **Gold Reader Pass**, which allows students to log their own independent reading as part of their Sparx Reader homework. We will also be tracking and celebrating the highest achievers of Sparx Reader points both within English classes and across the year group, with rewards for those who show exceptional commitment to their reading.

We know from extensive research that regular, habitual reading is one of the most powerful ways to improve a child's academic chances. Reading frequently not only strengthens vocabulary and comprehension but also deepens subject knowledge and develops the focus and resilience needed for learning across the curriculum.



To support all students in building this positive habit:

- Any student who does not complete their weekly homework will be asked to attend a **40-minute catch-up session on Wednesdays, after school, in room F1.**
- There will also be a **drop-in support session in G1 at break times on Mondays and Tuesdays** for any student who needs help logging in or using the programme.
- *Sparx Reader* can be completed on a **computer, phone, or tablet.** If access to technology is a barrier, students are welcome to attend **Homework Club, after school in B1,** to complete their work.

We are excited to be working with you to develop a strong culture of reading in Year 7. Your support in encouraging your child to complete their Sparx Reader homework each week will make a real difference.

Yours sincerely



Damien Bell
Assistant Headteacher



Amanda Webb
Head of English



Victoria Cripps
KS3 lead for English

