



23 January 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Years 7 & 8 - Sparx Reader**

I am writing to share a further update following the launch of *Sparx Reader* earlier this academic year and to celebrate the excellent engagement we are seeing across Years 7 and 8.

We are delighted with how positively students have responded to Sparx Reader as part of their weekly homework routine. Homework completion rates remain extremely strong, with Year 7 consistently achieving around a 99% completion rate and Year 8 averaging approximately 95%. This reflects a genuine commitment from students to making regular reading a habit, and we would like to commend them for this sustained effort.

Many students are also going well beyond the minimum expectations. While the weekly requirement is 300 Sparx Reader Points (SRP) (corresponding to about 30 minutes of careful reading):

- 127 Year 7 students (who began in September), and
- 45 Year 8 students (who began in November)

have already accumulated over 5,000 SRP. In addition, 38 students across the two year groups have achieved more than 10,000 SRP. These students will be recognised with certificates in assembly to celebrate their exceptional commitment to reading.

Regular reading at this stage is particularly important. The average reading age of a GCSE examination paper is widely considered to be between 15 and 16 years of age, regardless of the subject being assessed. By building strong, habitual reading practices now, students are developing the vocabulary, stamina, and comprehension skills they will need to access GCSE content successfully in the future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify the weekly homework routine and the support available to students.



Sparx Reader homework is set each Tuesday via English on ClassCharts and is due by 12pm the following Tuesday. This deadline allows students who may be struggling with that week's homework to access additional support. Students are welcome to attend drop-in support sessions on Mondays and Tuesdays in (F1) which is a computer room, where they can complete their reading and speak to a teacher if necessary. Students can also attend homework club, which takes place in B1 after school.

Students who do not meet the deadline of 12pm Tuesday will be issued with an after-school catch-up appointment on Wednesday to complete the work. Even if your son/daughter completes the reading after the deadline but before the appointment, they must attend the appointment to show the member of staff that the work has been done. They will be dismissed as soon as this has happened. Where students do not attend this session, the appointment will be escalated to a Pastoral detention.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to build a strong culture of reading. The engagement we are seeing is extremely encouraging and makes a real difference to students' long-term outcomes.

Yours sincerely



Mr D Bell  
Assistant Headteacher



Mrs A Webb  
Head of English



Mrs V Cripps  
KS3 Lead for English

