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Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: SPARX MATHS HOMEWORK (YEAR 7)

This school year, we will be setting your child's weekly maths homework on the Sparx Maths platform. Sparx has been proven to help students make good progress in maths by providing personalised weekly homework.

Your child's homework will be set every Tuesday and due for completion by 10pm on Monday of following week. It should take around 30 minutes. The first homework will be set on Tuesday 15th September.

Over the first two weeks of term, students will have an introductory session in school, with teacher support, to show them how the platform works.

We know you want to support your child with maths, so we are sending this letter to explain how Sparx works and how you can help your child to complete their homework each week.

What is Sparx Maths homework?

- Homework is matched to the topics on our CTA maths curriculum. Most questions will be on recently learned topics, but there will also be some questions on previous topics, to help strengthen their learning.
- Students log in at sparxmaths.com by choosing the name of the school, then clicking the "Log into Sparx using Microsoft" button. If prompted, they will they need to enter their normal school email address (including '@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk') and normal school password.
- They can use scrap paper for any working – we do not need them to record their work in a book. Sparx will sometimes set a 'book check', asking for the answer to a previous question. For this, students can select any answer – there is no penalty for getting this wrong.
- There will be a section of times table practice, presented in the form of games and challenges.

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 any help they need in school before the deadline. Homework is not marked as complete until all the compulsory questions have been answered correctly.
- You can check whether your child has completed their homework by asking them to show you the overview screen. The top homework will be the current one. It will show 'completed' and/or a tick when completed. Otherwise, it will show the percentage completed so far.
- Try not to help your child with a question until they've had a go first and watched the 1-minute support video for the question. It is essential that they try to complete their homework independently so that Sparx can give them questions that are at the right level of challenge for them.
- Sparx is easiest to use on a larger screen, such as a tablet, laptop, or desktop computer. However, it also works well on a smart phone.

How can your child get further help?

- As a first step, every question in Sparx has a support video attached so that your child can get immediate help independently.
- If they are still stuck after watching the video, your child should ask their teacher for support, before the homework deadline.

Finally, developments in AI in recent years have led to mobile phone apps that are surprisingly good at answering students' maths homework questions. We would value your support in preventing these being used. We recommend that students complete their work away from their mobile phone, unless they are using it to access Sparx.

Students at Chase Terrace have benefitted significantly from using this platform in recent years. We look forward to introducing your child to Sparx, and it helping to boost their understanding, success and confidence in maths.

If you have any questions, now or during the year, please don't hesitate to contact me at l.brown@chaseterraceacademy.co.uk.

Best wishes,



Mr L. Brown
Head of Mathematics