

KS3 Sparx Reader

This term Years 7-9 are well underway with using the new independent homework reading platform, Sparx Reader and now that it's been a few weeks of the students getting used to the platform, we wanted to tell you a bit more about it as well as advise on how you can support your child with their wider reading.

All students have a weekly reading comprehension homework using the Sparx Reader App to improve their reading comprehension skills. Details of this will be on the VLE every week.

Sparx Reader helps every student to achieve regular independent reading, which is incredibly important for building vital literacy skills. Students will have access to a wide range of genres including classics which may mean they have more challenge than in their normal wider reading books; therefore Sparx Reader may give them a book they wouldn't necessarily have picked up for themselves.

Students can choose from a range of ebooks at their appropriate level and as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. An essential skill needed for GCSE English courses. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can track their progress and climb the league table! Classes will have their own league tables and there will also be a year group league table. There will be this year a special display of Sparx Stars in the English street (names will also be shared in the newsletter), celebrating our students' effort and focus with their reading. Every term there will be a prize draw for students with the highest number of Sparx points or effort.

Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can also unlock 'Gold Reader' status. This means that they can read any paper book from the library or from home by scanning in its barcode. They can then achieve Sparx points through this too. This Gold Reader status is for short periods of time and then they return to books that are selected for them. Students can ask their teachers for more information on this.

How do they log in?

- Students log in at sparxreader.com or via the Sparxreader app. They need to use their Microsoft login, which is the same login for Sparx Maths.
- Your child can access Sparx Reader on their school iPad. They must however check that their iPad is connected to the school internet first if working from home.

How can I support my child with their reading?

- Sparx Reader adapts to each student's reading level, so it's important that you **don't** help by answering questions for them. If you help them, Sparx Reader might think they're a very strong reader and show them books that are too difficult.

- You can however help to provide a quiet space for your child to focus on their reading homework each week.
- The best way to support your child is to ask them about the book they're reading; what aspects they're enjoying, or what characters and events they've recently read about.
- You could also listen to them read it aloud so you can hear how they're doing.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs N. Pointon in the English Department.