



**“Being a head of a school with Sparx homework is excellent. It’s personalised, it’s challenging, it supports our teachers, it supports our students. It teaches them those individual skills that they need in terms of resilience and independence, which in turn are going to benefit all their subjects over the next 5 years.”**

**Amy Grashoff, Headteacher, St James School**

The power  
of Sparx in  
partnership with  
**St James School,  
Exeter**

**sparx**



# Sparx at St James

St James is a mixed secondary school in Exeter. With over 650 students, they are committed to raising standards to help their students move onto exciting post 16 activities and ultimately helping them to lead successful lives.



**“Sparx homework is bespoke for each student which is fantastic – it really tailors to the students’ individual needs in a way any teacher would dream to be able to do.”**



**St James adopted Sparx 5 years ago to help them address the gaps in numeracy they saw in their KS3 students. The project has not only helped the school address many of these gaps, but has also had a positive effect on staff, freeing up valuable time and helping to support their overall wellbeing.**

Sparx automatically sets one hour of personalised maths homework for every student, every week. The teacher dashboard allows teachers to see at a glance, those students who haven't completed their homework. It also highlights areas where individual students might be struggling or identifies topics that the whole class might be finding difficult.

**“The feedback we get on each student’s homework is rich with insights that allow us to know exactly how to support and encourage each one.”**

**Sally Vine, Maths Teacher, St James**

Teachers at St James have also been impressed by how engaged students become in maths. Because it is completely personalised, students can work at their own level, and at their own speed, without fear of being judged by their peers.

**“I like doing my Sparx homework because it’s better than all the other homeworks. It chooses the questions you get and how many you get depending on what you struggle with and what you’re good at.”**

**Student at St James**

The programme automatically feeds back to students when questions are right or wrong. Tutorial videos also encourage independent learning, helping to build confidence but also supporting the student when they need it.

**“They know immediately if they’re able to do that question. It really helps them moving forward and feeling confident. The immediate feedback for me is very powerful.”**

**Pip Stephens, Maths Teacher, St James**

Sparx is now being rolled out across other schools in the same Multi-Academy Trust.

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**WE WOULD LOVE TO SPEAK TO YOU  
ABOUT HOW SPARX CAN HELP YOUR SCHOOL.  
EMAIL US AT [SCHOOLS@SPARX.CO.UK](mailto:SCHOOLS@SPARX.CO.UK)**



**“Sparx has given me a sense of empowerment in the classroom and has enhanced my teaching delivery immensely.”**

**Adele Searle**  
Cranbrook Secondary School

The power  
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Secondary School,  
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## A conversation with Adele Searle, Maths Teacher.

We spoke to Adele Searle, Maths Teacher at Cranbrook Secondary School. Adele is an experienced maths teacher and has been using Sparx for 6 months. We discuss how Sparx has fitted into her usual teaching practices and the positive impact this has had for her and her students.



**“Students are motivated, inspired and fully engaged throughout all sections of each lesson.”**



### What's the greatest benefit to using Sparx for your students?

Students are motivated, inspired and fully engaged throughout all sections of each lesson and are improving their mathematical skill whilst using the Sparx learning platform. Traditional mathematics lessons are like giving a student a book to read whilst sitting in a dark room. Sparx delivers mathematics tailored to the individual, encourages enablement and inspires pupils to want to learn.



## How useful do you find the teacher dashboard?

The teacher dashboard feature gives me a real-time insight into the progress of each learner. I am able to provide assistance to those who require scaffolding and give instant praise to pupils who are making significant progress.



## Did you find it difficult to introduce Sparx?

Sparx provided excellent training, support and an insightful introduction on how to use the system and teach with the software. My students were very quick to respond and were able to grasp the basics in no time. It soon became apparent that Sparx was an essential part of the tapestry of their positive, safe, animated and motivational learning environment.



## Have you found that Sparx has given you more time to teach?

I have more time to tailor my teaching to each individual and I am able to deliver a personalised learning programme which benefits all pupils whilst covering the essential mathematical components of the curriculum with ease. The 'flow' of each lesson is astounding and demonstrates how Sparx provides teachers with the 'time to teach' in the classroom.



## How has Sparx affected the way you teach?

Sparx has given me a sense of empowerment in the classroom and has enhanced my teaching delivery immensely. My lessons are more cohesive, every minute counts and the Sparx system allows me to stretch and challenge more able learners whilst giving me the time to support and encourage pupils who find some concepts more challenging.

Homework is tailored to suit the needs of each student and they are given opportunities to complete compulsory homework, as well as optional and targeted tasks. I am now a 'smart marker' when marking books as the system provides 'insights' into pupil performance on homework and I can access live

lesson information or use lesson feedback to identify areas for praise and points for improvement. Pupils are given dedicated improvement and reflection time to respond to marking comments so that they identify their strengths and take ownership of specific targets.



## Do you feel that Sparx is supporting your students and you?

Sparx promotes lifelong learning amongst my students, using materials which are relevant to pupils' learning goals and it connects our classroom with the real world. As well as providing a motivational learning environment, Sparx promotes a sense of wellbeing and confidence with mathematical subject knowledge and my students benefit from immediate feedback, guidance delivered via video instructions and they are able to learn without being constrained.

Pupils are able to work individually and collaboratively whilst using a variety of techniques and activities; to emphasise key points and using tools which reach all types of learning style. They are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and are encouraged to meet success criteria for their quality of written communication, using book work checks.



## What's the best insight Sparx gives you as a teacher?

Sparx boosts attainment and supports the progress made by each individual whilst helping to close the gap, ignite ambition and promote aspirational goals. The system highlights each pupil's strengths and targets areas for improvement. The combination of lessons, bespoke homework, activities and educational games enhance the teacher-led sections of each lesson.

Sparx makes effective use of my mathematical subject knowledge whilst allowing me to personalise the teaching delivery to suit my own individual style. Expeditionary learning and the evolution of Sparx in the classroom allows me to encompass traditional teaching, differentiated instruction and focus learners' attention using technological methods. Sparx provides a contemporary classroom environment which suits a diverse range of abilities and delivers inclusion, resilience and self-esteem. Pupils are able to celebrate their mathematical success as part of their Sparx educational journey.

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01392 440 438 | [SCHOOLS@SPARX.CO.UK](mailto:SCHOOLS@SPARX.CO.UK)



# Sparx Schools enjoy homework success

The power  
of Sparx in  
partnership with

five schools  
in Devon

**sparx**



**In September 2018 five schools in Devon adopted Sparx to automatically set personalised maths homework for their Year 7 students. Prior to adopting Sparx we talked to the schools about their expected completion rates.**

Completion rates across the group of schools ranged from an anticipated 0-20% completion at the lowest end of the scale to 80%, depending on how much focus was being given to homework in each school.

After two months, **all schools have seen significant rises in the amount of homework completed**, compared to pre-Sparx estimates **with every school in this group seeing legacy completion rates of over 90%**.

Although all of the schools saw significant uplift in their completion rates, one school has exceeded every expectation. School C previously had a 0-20% completion rate. However, during the period using Sparx, the school achieved over 97% completion. As a school that is currently rated inadequate and has traditionally seen very low hand-in rates for homework this is a significant achievement for the school and for its partnership with Sparx.

School	Pre-Sparx HW Estimate	First Half term legacy
School A	41 – 60% completion every 2 weeks	90.7%
School B	61 – 80% completion every 2 weeks	95.3%
School C	0 – 20% completion every 2 weeks	97.9%
School D	61 – 80% completion every 2 weeks	99.4%
School E	80% completion every week	97.3%

First half term of homework - as of 29/10/2018. Legacy rate includes on-time completion and total completion rates by the end of the given period.

Sparx sets one hour of compulsory homework per week. In addition there are optional and target homeworks which the students can choose to do. The schools in the group were delighted to see a large number of optional and target homeworks being completed, demonstrating incredibly high levels of student engagement.

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