

Worthing High School: Mathematics Department

Homework Policy

At Worthing High School, we recognise the importance of homework to the understanding of learning. The maths department uses Sparx Maths as their online homework platform, and all students have a Sparx account. They can access this using their school passwords. Sparx tests pupils on current knowledge as well as recalling prior learning.

Homework is set weekly, with homework due every Friday. Students are encouraged to ask their teachers if they are stuck on any particular problems. In KS3 homework should be about 30 minutes, in Y10 and Y11 60 minutes. As part of the set homework, there will also be an element of practicing times tables, to help students become more fluent with mental maths.

Students can also use Sparx for independent learning and revision. There is XP Boost, where students can continue to practice their mathematical skills. In addition, they can also access any lesson by going through the Independent Learning page.

Rewards and detentions

Students are expected to complete their Sparx HW and achieve 100%. If they need support on any questions, they are expected to seek that support from their teacher before the deadline. If students achieve 100% on their homework, we will award them a Merit. We would like students to develop resilience and want to reward them for it. If students spend 15 minutes of more time on their homework, we will award them an additional Merit.

If students fail to complete their HW they will be set a detention. Detentions are set in computer rooms with teachers on hand to help students with particular questions. In KS3, detentions are set for 30 minutes, in KS4 they are 60 minutes. Y11 students will be set on alternating Wednesdays to ensure they are able to attend P6 Revision/Interventions.

If a student has failed to achieve 100%, but have shown that they have genuinely made their best effort, then teacher discretion will be applied to setting detentions. Teachers are able to see how much time a student has spent on their HW and how many questions they have attempted. This can then be used to gauge whether a student has indeed tried their best.

KS3 detentions are held mainly on Wednesdays or Thursdays, KS4 will be mainly on Mondays. Slots may have to be changed due to meetings.

We would also like to encourage students who have questions regarding their homework, to use these detention slots as a drop-in opportunity.