

Worthing High School: Mathematics Department

Homework Policy

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

Homework is set weekly; new tasks are set each Monday, and are due the following Monday.

At Key Stage 3, homework should take approximately 30 minutes each week.

At Key Stage 4, homework should take approximately 60 minutes each week.

In instances where students are finding the homework challenging or are stuck on particular questions, they are encouraged to first watch the support videos on Sparx that will guide them through similar examples. They should then attempt the questions at least once. If they are still struggling with a particular question, students should ask their teacher for help before the deadline.

Students can use Sparx for revision, and can search for specific topics to practice by clicking on Independent Learning. They can also access additional questions for further maths practice, using the XP Boost option on Sparx.

Rewards and sanctions

Students are expected to complete their Sparx Homework each week by the deadline, and should aim to achieve 100%. If students achieve 100% on their homework by the deadline, they will be awarded a Merit. We would like students to develop resilience and want to reward them for it.

If students fail to complete their Homework by the Monday deadline, they will be set a detention. Detentions are set in computer rooms with Maths teachers available to support students with particular questions. Students who complete their homework after the Monday deadline, but before the set detention, will still be expected to attend the after school detention. They can use this time to get started on the current week's homework ahead of the deadline.

If a student has failed to achieve 100%, but has 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 homework and how many questions they have attempted, as well as whether they have watched the support videos linked to each question. This can then be used to gauge whether a student has in fact attempted the homework to the best of their ability.

In Key Stage 3, detentions are set for 30 minutes, and in Key Stage 4 they are 60 minutes. Detentions will usually occur on a Wednesday, but may be moved to Thursdays in some weeks due to staff meetings and CPD sessions.

If students choose to not attend a detention for incomplete or late homework, they will be set a further sanction in the form of a Head of Department detention, which will take place on a Friday after school.

