

20th January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 English

We're excited to let you know that we've partnered with Sparx Learning to start using their new reading platform, Sparx Reader.

It's really important to us that young people are able to practise careful, silent reading for a decent amount of time, without distraction. Sparx Reader reassures us as teachers and parents that focused reading is happening, and that readers of all abilities feel successful and motivated.

For the remainder of the academic year, all children in Year 8 will be using Sparx Reader to complete weekly homework. Your child's homework will be set on Monday mornings and due on Sunday evening every week. Students can choose from an appropriate range of ebooks at their reading level and as they read, they'll answer questions to check they're reading carefully. Careful readers earn points, meaning they can prove they've been focusing and ultimately climb the league table!

Motivated readers who demonstrate consistent, careful reading can unlock Gold Reader. This means they can read any paper book from the library or from home by scanning in its barcode.

We encourage you to watch [this series of short videos](#), explaining what Sparx Reader is and how it works.

How do they log in?

- Students log in via: sparxreader.com. They will need to find their school and log in using their Sparx Maths details.

Which devices are supported?

- Your child can access Sparx Reader on any device that connects to the internet with a web browser.

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 help by providing a quiet space and a set amount of time 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, which aspects they're enjoying, which characters and events they've recently read about or what they think could happen next.

How can I monitor the reading my child is doing?

- You can keep track of your child's reading by clicking through the link to the Parent Portal in your Sparx Maths weekly homework email.
- On the Parent Portal, you can choose to view homework progress for any Sparx Learning system your child is using. For Sparx Reader, you can see progress with the current and previous homeworks and browse books that your child has been reading as part of their current homework.
- When your child finishes their book, we will send you an email celebrating their achievement!

What support is available at Ely College?

If your child would like to complete their homework at school, the library (LRC) is open before school each day from 08:00, and after school until 16:15 (16:00 on Fridays).

If you have any questions, please contact your child's English teacher in the first instance.

Yours faithfully

A. Bick

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