

St Matthew Academy

St Joseph's Vale, Blackheath, London SE3 0XX

Headteacher: Ms Miranda Baldwin

Head of Primary: Ms Joanna Chick



16th November 2023

Dear Year 8 Parents and Carers,

The English Department is delighted to announce that we have recently introduced the Sparx Reader to enhance and enrich our pupils' reading experience. We would like to take a moment to emphasise the importance of your child's participation in this **online reading platform**. Regular completion of the Sparx Reader homework not only enhances your child's reading abilities but also has a profound impact across subjects, shaping a strong academic foundation.

Reading is not just a skill confined to English classes; it is a fundamental tool that enhances comprehension, critical thinking, and vocabulary. Having a strong reading age is directly linked to academic success. Pupils who read regularly tend to have a broader vocabulary and improved comprehension skills.

We kindly request your cooperation in ensuring your child completes their Sparx Reader homework regularly, which will be **due weekly on Mondays**. Your involvement and support play a significant role in their academic journey. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher. Additionally, please be aware that incomplete Sparx Reader homework will result in a 20 minute detention. However, we will also award our most committed readers with Sparx Reader certificates and badges.

To support your child's reading development, we are also offering **Sparx Club on Thursday afternoons until 4:15pm**. This is an opportunity for pupils to engage with the Sparx Reader platform in a supportive and encouraging environment, and to work on any technical difficulties they may encounter.

Thank you for your support, and we look forward to your continued support in fostering a love for reading and a passion for learning in our pupils!

Yours faithfully

SMA English Department