

February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am excited to share with you a new homework initiative which we are rolling out to Year 8. It was launched with Year 7 in January, and it has been a great success. It is a structured daily routine which we refer to as “20-20-20”.

Each day after school the expectation is that students complete one hour of homework. This hour should be broken into 3 parts: **20 minutes reading**, **20 minutes Sparx** and **20 minutes Retrieval**:

Reading: Students are expected to engage in reading for a minimum of 20 minutes each day. We would like to emphasise the importance of reading, as exploring a wide range of genres—both fiction and non-fiction—is integral to developing strong English skills. All Key Stage 3 students attend one mastery lesson per week and are invited to visit the library to select a book to borrow; they may choose to read this book or continue with one from their own collection at home. We also encourage you to listen to your child read aloud at least once a week. Consistent weekly reading will earn students a star, and the accumulation of three stars will result in the award of a golden ticket.

Sparx: Students should spend 20 minutes per day working through their Sparx Maths or Sparx Science homework. As a reminder, this is set each Wednesday morning and due the following Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Each Sparx homework is 30 minutes in length. Breaking this work up into short 20-minute bursts allow students plenty of time to watch the online support videos and seek help from their class teacher if they are struggling, rather than leaving the homework until the night before and limiting their success.

Retrieval: Students have been given a Home Learning book. Students should complete a 20-minute retrieval task from this book every day. Each page of the book is dated so that the students know exactly which task to complete on which day. If your child is busy on a given evening each week, because of an after-school club for example, then it is fine to complete a few tasks at once on another evening that week if this supports them. There is extra guidance at the front of the book that details what an effective retrieval task looks like. The task that is expected to be completed each day follows the timetable below. Students will be able to use their Knowledge Organiser to support them if they struggle with any aspect of these tasks.

As your child arrives to school each day they will be asked to show their retrieval work from the evening before to a member of staff. The member of staff may quiz them on key aspects so that students can demonstrate their understanding. The class teacher responsible for that subject will then check the quality of the work during a lesson that week. The school will inform you on a weekly basis should we have any concerns regarding your child’s homework completion.

For this half term (February – March) the day that each retrieval task should be completed is detailed in the table below:

Day	Reading (mins)	Maths/Science (mins)	Retrieval Task (mins)	On - Going
Monday	Reading (20)	Sparx (20)	History (20)	Art research or creative task
Tuesday	Reading (20)	Sparx (20)	Tuesday (20)	
Wednesday	Reading (20)	Sparx (20)	French (20)	
Thursday	Reading (20)	Sparx (20)	Music/Drama (20)	
Friday	Reading (20)	Sparx (20)	Geography (20)	

From the table you can see that occasionally, extra pieces of work might be set at the discretion of the class teacher. This might be artwork for example, which will be set when it supports class learning, such as research into a theme or a creative task to develop skills. In a different subject it may be revision of a key topic in preparation for an up-coming assessment. Students may be referred to their Knowledge Organiser to support them with this.

Each piece of homework that your child receives is a key learning opportunity and is designed to check for the acquisition of knowledge and skills in that subject. This will enable your child to recall and apply the necessary skills in their assessments, and they will see the reward through increased attainment across all their subjects. The 20-20-20 approach will give your child routine, structure and consistency which will help them to embed good study habits and support them as they move towards study at KS4.

Home learning is an expectation at Scalby School and there is the possibility that your child will receive a C4 afterschool detention if it is not completed by the deadline. We do however want to support your child and reward them for good quality homework. Because of this, there will be daily, weekly and half termly prizes to celebrate their positive efforts with home learning.

We look forward to working with you as we endeavour to improve the home learning experience that your child receives. We really want your child to understand that the development of knowledge and skills does not just happen in the classroom, and that homework is not only an opportunity for them to demonstrate and develop understanding, but also an opportunity for them to be supported by parents and carers.

Should you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Green

(Lead Practitioner)