

25 September 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

We are trialling a new reading programme within English to support students at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, called Sparx Reader. Sparx Reader allows students to read books online that are tailored to their level.

From this term, Sparx Reader will form part of your child's weekly English homework. To ensure the programme provides appropriate reading suggestions, students will complete a short test which identifies their reading age. Each week, they will then be expected to read and answer comprehension questions on the programme. Correct answers earn points, and students will need to achieve 300 points per week for their homework to be marked as completed.

The programme adapts to each child's progress: the questions will increase or decrease in difficulty depending on their performance, helping to challenge and support them.

Sparx Reader does not require an app; it is accessed through a web browser using school login details. Students will be shown how to log in and use the programme during their reading lessons.

For KS4 students, Sparx Reader also includes full versions of our GCSE literature texts *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*. We encourage students to use these texts on the programme to support revision and to consolidate their knowledge through rereading alongside the comprehension activities. KS4 students can also access a wide range of other books on Sparx Reader, and we strongly recommend they continue to use the platform for wider reading as well as for their set texts.

We would also like to involve parents by enabling Sparx Reader to send you email updates about your child's reading activity, including how much they are reading and their performance. In order to send you these updates we require your consent to share your Name and Email address with Sparx Reader. We would be grateful if you could provide your consent to sharing this email via the Arbor App.

You can view the Privacy Notice for Sparx Reader [here](#).

If you would like to know more about Sparx Reader, and how it can support your child, please find more information on their website at <https://sparxreader.com/parents/>

We will be gathering feedback from both parents and students on the programme in due course, and your views will be greatly valued.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Howes
Achievement Leader - English
jess.howes@crestwood.hants.sch.uk

Crestwood Community School

Shakespeare Campus, Shakespeare Road, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4FZ | Cherbourg Campus, Cherbourg Road,
Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 5EL

Email: adminoffice@crestwood.hants.sch.uk Tel: 023 8064 1232 Web: www.crestwood.hants.sch.uk