



13 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge, we remain committed to ensuring that every student possesses the advanced literacy skills required to excel across the secondary curriculum. As we move further into the academic year, I am writing to provide a formal update on our expectations for Sparx Reader and to celebrate the exceptional progress already being made by our Year 7 cohort.

Academic research consistently highlights that the literacy demands of the modern curriculum are significant. Research suggest that the average reading age of a GCSE paper is between 15 and 16 years old. By engaging in a minimum of 20 minutes of "Careful Reading" each week via Sparx Reader, students are not merely completing a homework task; they are systematically closing the gap between their current reading level and the rigorous demands of Key Stage 4. This habit is the single most effective way to unlock success in subjects ranging from the Sciences to the Humanities.

To support students in maintaining these high academic standards, we wish to remind families of the weekly cycle and the support available:

- **Weekly Schedule:** Homework is set every Thursday evening and is due the following Thursday morning.
- **Independent Practice:** It is vital that students complete the comprehension questions independently. This allows the Sparx algorithm to accurately calibrate book difficulty to your child's specific reading profile.
- **On-Site Support:** To provide a focused environment for this work, our Homework Club is available in the Library every Tuesday and Thursday after school. Supervised by Miss Flett, this is an excellent opportunity for students to reach their weekly targets before leaving the school site.

This term, we are delighted to be awarding certificates to 24 students who have surpassed the significant milestone of 5,000 Sparx Reading Points (SRP). Additionally, there are four students who have amassed over 20,000 SRP this year. Congratulations to these students on their outstanding commitment to reading.

We thank you for your continued partnership in fostering the reading habits that will underpin your child's future academic achievements.

Yours sincerely,

Damien Bell
Deputy Headteacher (interim)

