



TANFIELD  
SCHOOL

HARD WORK | TRUST | FAIRNESS

29<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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.

From **Monday 29th September 2025**, your child will be using Sparx Reader to complete weekly homework. This will replace their daily Braindumps.

**Your child's homework will be set on a Monday and due 9PM Sunday night every week. However, we do recommend your child completes their homework Monday-Friday to give them a break over the weekend.**

### **Why have we decided to start using Sparx Reader?**

Studies show that students who engage in meaningful independent reading achieve better GCSE results. This is because students need to be proficient readers in order to fully understand and interpret the questions on their GCSE exam papers. For example, the GCSE English Language exam papers require students to read, interpret and analyse unseen extracts independently. Therefore, it is vital we provide students with as many opportunities as possible to practise this.

Sparx Reader gives students the opportunity to practise focused, independent reading on a regular basis. We believe this, in addition to our knowledge rich curriculum, will provide students with the skills they need to achieve success at GCSE level and beyond.

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!

TANFIELD SCHOOL  
HEADTEACHER Steven Clough BSc (Hons) NPQH

Tanfield Lea Road, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 8AY

enquiries@tanfieldschool.co.uk

01207 232 881

@TanfieldSchool @TanfieldSchool

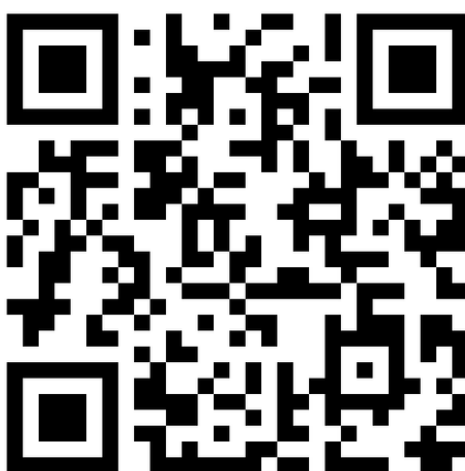
www.tanfieldschool.co.uk

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 a series of short videos, explaining what Sparx Reader is and how it works, available at <https://sparxreader.com/parents/> or by scanning this QR code:

### **How do they log in?**

- Students log in at [sparxreader.com](https://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 are able to 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 in school?**

- Junior Champions/ Homework Club.
- Access to computers in the Library during break and lunch times.
- The Link (SEND Base).
- 

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Mrs Oliver.

