2023-24



A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Year 8 Curriculum and how to support learning at home



"The effect of parental engagement over a student's school career is the equivalent of adding two to three years to their education."

Professor John Hattie, 2008

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Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to the Year 8 Guide to the Curriculum and Home Learning. We hope that you find this a useful resource in the year ahead.

The partnership between school and home is a vital one and by working together we can ensure your child continues to build on the progress they made last year.

The purpose of this guide is to share the overview of the Year 8 curriculum with you and provide information about how you can support your child's learning at home. The school's curriculum policy and curriculum guides will all be posted on the **'Curriculum'** page of the Saddleworth School website.

If you have any questions about a particular subject, please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher or the Curriculum Leader for that subject. If your questions are about a range of subjects, your child's form tutor or Home School Leader will be well placed to help.



"Parents have the greatest influence on the achievement of young people through supporting their learning in the home rather than supporting activities in the school. It is their support of learning within the home environment that makes the maximum difference to achievement."

Sui-Chu and Willms, (1996)

YEAR 8 KEY DATES 2023-24

20th September 2023 Y8 Parents' Information Evening

Thursday 19th October Students finish for October half term today - school opens on 30th Oct.

Friday 20th October INSET Staff training Day

w.b. 13th November Y8 School reports sent home this week

23rd November 2023 Y8 Parents' Consultation Evening

14th December 2023 School Winter Concert

21st December 2023 School finishes today at 1:20pm for the holidays

8th January 2024 INSET Staff Training Day – students back to school on 9th January

12th – 14th February 2024 Y8 HPV Vaccinations

16th **February 2024** School finishes today for the half term holiday – opens on 26th Feb.

w.b. 11th March 2024 Y8 Reports go home this week

28th March **2024** School finishes today at 3pm for the holidays – opens on 15th April.

23rd May 2024 School finishes today at 3pm for the holidays – opens on 3rd June

24th May 2024 Whit Friday (school closed to students in Y7-Y10)

Y11 students in school taking exams today.

w.b. 3rd June 2024 Y8 End of year assessments begin in lessons

21st – 23rd June 2024 Provisional date for Maths & English assessments in main hall

1st July 2024 Arts Festival Week

Assistant Headteacher: KS3 Standards

Attendance Team

12th July 2024 KS3 whole school sports event

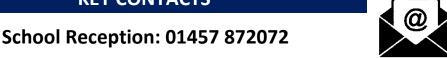
w.b. 15th July 2024 Y8 Reports go home this week

Year 8 Celebration Assembly

23rd July 2024 School ends at 1:20pm today for the summer holidays

8

KEY CONTACTS



Your child's Form Tutor:	Email:
8N – Mr S Wales	S.Wales@saddleworthschool.org
8A – Mrs R Thorne	R.Thorne@saddleworthschool.org
8V – Mr A Cooney	A.Cooney@saddleworthschool.org
8Y – Mr A Hazzledine	A. Hazzledine <u>@saddleworthschool.org</u>
8E – Ms J Charlesworth	J.Charlesworth@saddleworthschool.org
8T – Miss M Pannett	M.Pannett@saddleworthschool.org
8G – Ms Cottam	C.Cottam@saddleworthschool.org
80 – Mr J Spence	J.Spence@saddleworthschool.org
8L – Mrs K Leitheiser	K.Leitheiser@saddleworthschool.org
8D – Mrs Bowskill	C.Bowskil_C.Bowskill@saddleworthschool.org
Year 8 Pastoral Support Assistant:	Mrs H Byron
	H.Byron@saddleworthschool.org
Year 8 Home School Leader:	Mr R Fryer
	R.Fryer@saddleworthschool.org

Mr M Carey

M.Carey@saddleworthschool.org

Mrs D Dorobat and Mrs L Brindle

ATTENDANCE

We understand that there are times when a student has to miss school due to illness. Please keep these occasions as brief and as infrequent as possible. In these circumstances we request that parents select the absence tab on your Classcharts app. This will display a list of absences that you have reported for your child. To report a new absence, please click on the report new absence button. Please do this by 8.30am on each day of absence. If no contact has been made to confirm absence, then the school will follow the 'Unexplained / Unexpected Absences' procedures that are highlighted within the School's Attendance policy.

Please see the school website for support on using Classcharts.

Ready to Learn AIM HIGH					
E G I Excellent Good Inconsistent			S Serious Concern		
100% 97-99% 94-969 Attendance Attendance Attendance			Below 94% Attendance		
O Late Marks to School. No appointments or holidays during school time.	0-3 Late Marks to School. No appointments or holidays during school time.	0-6 Late Marks to School. Some appointments during school time.	T6+ Late Marks to School. Appointments or holidays during school time.		

PUNCTUALITY

Students who are habitually late to school or to lessons will, over time, miss a significant amount of learning as the table below shows. Please help your child to recognise the importance of being on time for school, lessons and outside of school as well as the consequences of being late for appointments and for the work place.

EVERY DAY, ALL DAY, ALL THE WA	Minutes Late	Days of Learning Lost	
15 Minutes 10.3 Days / 2 Weeks - (94.7% Attendance) ATTENDANCE COUNT 20 Minutes 13.8 Days - (92.9% Attendance)	5 Minutes	3.4 Days - (98.4% Attendance)	7 7 8
15 Minutes 10.3 Days / 2 Weeks - (94.7% Attendance) ATTENDANCE COUNT 20 Minutes 13.8 Days - (92.9% Attendance)	10 Minutes	6.9 Days - (97.6% Attendance)	Here!
	15 Minutes	10.3 Days / 2 Weeks - (94.7% Attendance)	ATTENDANCE COUNTS
30 Minutes 20.7 Days / 4 weeks -(89.2% Attendance)	20 Minutes	13.8 Days - (92.9% Attendance)	
	30 Minutes	20.7 Days / 4 weeks -(89.2% Attendance)	. 1

Eleph

WAYS IN WHICH PARENTS & CARERS CAN HELP

- Is your child getting their 5 Ways to Wellbeing each day?
- How is your child coping? Communication is key
- Is there a guiet place to study at home without distractions?
- ➤ How do you make sure mobile technology doesn't distract your child from revision and home learning? Agree some ground rules!
- Is your child getting quality sleep?
 8-10 hours per night is recommended by the NHS.
- Does your child read regularly?
- Does your child have all the equipment they need (see below) and a desk/table?
- Does your child record their home learning in their planner? Are they meeting deadlines for home learning tasks?
- What is your child finding difficult? Can they tell you specific areas in certain subjects that they find tricky?



- Does your child quiz themselves using their knowledge organisers? Do they make their revision active by writing and talking aloud? Can you support them?
- Can your child structure and plan time? Help them to make a list and organise their time.
- Talk with your child about their learning using the prompts on pages 9 and 16.



Equipment List



'ALL STARS' – RECOGNITION

In order to recognise students' efforts and attitudes to learning we have introduced the 'All Stars' recognition package to Saddleworth School.

At the end of each term, we will add up the number of credits students have received, and they will be awarded a Bronze/Silver/Gold Diamond or Platinum Award.





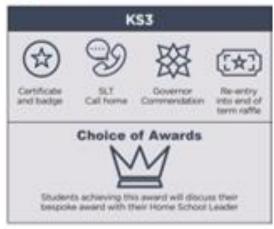












YOUR CHILD'S CURRICULUM ENTITLEMENT

Subject	Number of	Subject	No.	Subject	No.	Subject	No.
	lessons						
	per						
	fortnight						
English	8	SPACE	1	Music	2	History	3
Maths	7	PE	4	Art	2	Geography	3
Science	7	MFL(French/German)	4	Drama	2	RE	2
				Design	3	Computing	2
				Technology			

The Year 8 curriculum entitles students to:

- Access a broad and balanced curriculum.
- Develop their literacy skills supported by the whole school focus on 'language for learning'.
- Develop their numeracy skills and economic awareness.
- Learn a Modern Foreign Language.
- Participate in 4 periods of physical education each fortnight.
- Experience the separate art forms of Music, Art and Drama and access to the extra-curricular opportunities they provide.
- Study a range of subjects within Design Technology, including food and nutrition.
- Explore and develop their sense of self: their values, feelings and understanding of their place in the world as a respectful, responsible, global citizen. Strengthening their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development.
- See the importance of and connections between leading a healthy, active life with managing one's own mental health and wellbeing.
- Receive careers education, information advice and guidance (CEIAG) through specific sessions, and the 'Start Profile' online platform.
- Develop the appropriate IT and employability skills.
- Develop their attitudes to learning and leadership skills in a range of contexts including lessons, form time, extra-curricular participation, home learning and the PETALS programme.
- Represent their school in cultural and sporting events and/ or be a volunteer ambassador at whole school and community events.



THE POWER OF PARENT AND CARER CONVERSATIONS.

Why is it important to help support your child's home learning?

We know that learning at home can be really challenging. Parents and Carers are not expected to be experts, but they play an incredibly important role in showing children how to organise themselves, manage their time and to keep trying when things get tricky.





Why are conversations about learning at home so important?

Research shows that the more we all talk about learning the more we think deeply about it and want to find out more - this gives learning a greater chance of sticking in our long-term memory. Before COVID-19, we were working with parents and carers to find more ways of helping you to have conversations about learning at home. It's so important that we continue to work together to nurture your child's learning.

- **Just a five-minute conversation** with a child can help them to remember and better understand what they've learnt.
- Support your child by checking their confidence in an area of learning. You do not need to be an expert in a subject to ask questions about it.
- The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else can they teach you?
- Help your child to identify what knowledge and skills they are less sure or confident about.
 Knowing which topics need more work or revision is crucial. Many young people feel happier spending time on what they already feel confident with but that is not where their improvement and future progress lies they need to persevere with the topics they find challenging.
- Encourage and motivate your child; recognise their successes and achievements, however small.

What kind of questions could I ask?

Here are some questions teaching staff may want students to be able to answer with their parents and carers as part of a home learning activity. *Try using the cards on page 17.*



- "Which was your favourite lesson today? Sum up your lesson in 3 words.
 Why did you pick those words?"
- "Did you do something new today that you've never done before? Can you explain it to me?"
- "What have you been learning about today? What can you teach me?"
- "What does mean?"
- "Why do you think this might be important to know or learn? What's your opinion on this topic?"
- "What are you less sure about or find difficult to understand? What do you need to do/ask?"
- "Which part are you less confident with? How can we find out more?"
- "Which is your best piece of work so far? Why do you think this is?"
- "Show me how you are organising your work so that it is kept in the correct sequence or order."
- "Show me how you take PRIDE in your work."
- "Show me your work from today or this week in [name of subject]. What might your teacher say is a strength with this work? What might they say is an area to improve?"
- Have you proof read your work and thought about how to improve it? Have a go at doing this
 and show me your improvements later."

YEAR 8 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2023-24

SUBJECT	Autumn Half Term 1	Autumn HT2	Spring HT1	Spring HT2	Summer HT1	Summer HT2
MATHS	Probability Algebraic expressions	Algebraic expressions Sequences	Linear graphs Indices	2D shapes Inequalities Real life graphs	2D shapes: congruence, properties and similarities	3D shapes Transformations Simultaneous equations/ Problem solving
ENGLISH	Non-Fiction Texts (Inspirational People)	Transactional writing	Much Ado about Nothing by Shakespeare	Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck	Extended Story Writing	People and Places
SCIENCE	8A: What is human diet & how is the digestive system adapted to take this in 8I: How does the behaviour of particles explain the effects of fluids?	8E: What happens in oxidation & combustion reactions? 8J: How does light travel and what happens when it meets an object?	8C How do we get enough oxygen and what happens if we don't? 8F: What are the trends in the periodic table?	8B How do plants reproduce and grow from seeds? 8F: What are the trends in the periodic table? 8K Energy Transfers How Can We Make Them More Efficient?	8B How do plants reproduce and grow from seeds? 8G What are the properties and reactions of metals?	8D What are unicellular organisms and how do they interact? 8L How can we apply our knowledge of gravity and magnetism to space?
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)	Talking about sport/hobbies. - Sports & hobbies. - Frequency words. - Regular past tense.	Describing my favourite food and drink. - Likes/dislikes and favourites. - Fruit and veg, breakfast items, evening meals, cultural foods. - Healthy living. - Irregular past tense.	Am I healthy? - Body partsIllnesses A visit to the doctor Expressing a problem Extended dialogue, combining the regular and irregular past tense.	Jobs - Jobs/CareersSkills/QualitiesFuture tensePlaces of work.	Holidays - Talking about holiday preferencesIrregular past tense Transport WeatherAccommodationHoliday Problems.	Live, Breathe, Speak German - Film and TV preferences Opinions Writing a film review New technology.
HISTORY	How did the Industrial Revolution change life in Britain?	What impact did the British Empire have?	Why did two bullets lead to millions of death?	Who do people wear poppies?	Were the 1920s 'roari USA?	ng' for everyone in the

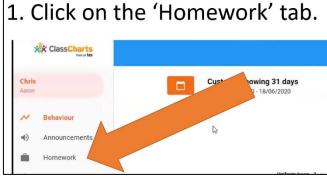
ContinuedYEAR 8 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW 2023-24						
SUBJECT	Autumn	Autumn	Spring	Spring	Summer	Summer
	Half Term 1	HT2	HT1	HT2	HT1	HT2
RE	Hinduism – Key beliefs and practices		Is all life	sacred?	Sikhism– Key k	peliefs and practices
GEOGRAPHY	Tropical Storms	Urbanisation	Tectonics	Comparing countries	Glaciation	Ecosystems
GEOGRAPHY	Case studies on	Case studies on	Case studies on New	Comparing LIDC, EDC	Case studies on	Case studies on The
	Katrina and Nargis	Singapore, Denmark and China.	Zealand and Nepal.	and AC countries.	Antarctica and the Alps.	Amazon and Great Barrier Reef
COMPUTING	IT work skills inc. Teams/One Drive. Internet Safety	Algorithms, Programming and Computational Thinking	Data Repre Bin		Ne	etworks
PE	Football		Badminton / table tenr	nis	Fitness	
	Netball/ handball		Basketball		Hockey	
	Rugby/ tag rugby				Cricket/ Rounders/ so	ftball
	•			s activities/ cross	Athletics	
	•	Motor competences c			Motor compet	
	Rules, strategies and tacticsHealthy participation & Leadership		Motor compete		Rules, strategi	
	Healthy partic	cipation & Leadership	Rules, strategieHealthy particing	s and tactics pation & Leadership	Healtny partic	ipation & Leadership
CREATIVE	Product D	esign – Birdcage	Graphics – Pop	•		ood –
STUDIES		Ç Ç		•	Food Safety, Foods	from Around the World
MUSIC	Hooks and riffs	Offbeat: Reggae	Theme and variations	All that Jazz	All about the bass	Saharan Sounds
ART	How is identity represented through portraiture?		How has our local landscape been portrayed in Art through history?		How can Art help othe	rs in need?
DRAMA	Conflict	Script	Greek Theatre: Antigone	Piccadilly	Dramatising a script: Charlotte Dymond	Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
SPACE	Resilience	Relationships	Drugs and their effects	Social media	First Aid Study Skills	Mindfulness
CAREERS	SPACE lessons: Rights	and responsibilities	Using START profile	National Careers Week events	SPACE lessons: Strategies to help me in exams.	'TeenTech' City of tomorrow. Reflection/Goal setting.

WHAT ARE THE EXPECTATIONS FOR HOMEWORK?

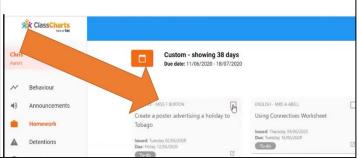
Students are expected to work at home to consolidate the knowledge and skills they have learnt at school. Being able to practise and study at home is important because it not only helps students to develop independence and organisational skills but also helps them to develop effective learning habits for future years.

Teachers will set the details about all homework tasks on Class Charts so that parents can support students.

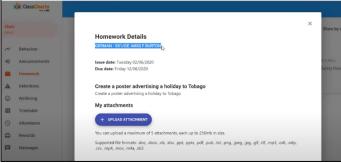
Not all homework will be completed online; students will be directed to the resources they need and instructed when and how to hand it in.



2. Click on the homework you want to view



3. Read your instructions and download any attachments



4. Once you have completed your homework, click the box in the top right corner of the rectangle.



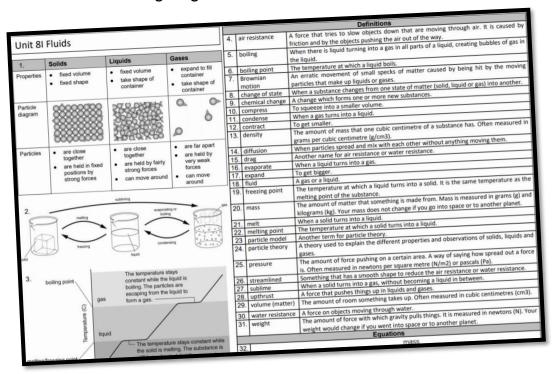
When a student is unsure it is always best to encourage them to have a go at the homework. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if there are issues - by working together we can support students more effectively.

Parents and carers can play a supporting role by checking Class Charts regularly. Please ensure that your child has the time, equipment and quiet table space at home to study. Ask your child 'show me your learning... what are you most proud of?'

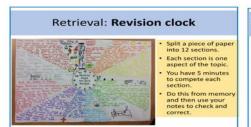
In KS3, a weekly homework activity will be set in Maths, English and Science and all other subjects will set homework as appropriate but at least twice per half term.

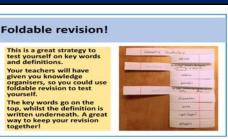
HOW SHOULD MY CHILD USE THE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS?

Each subject will create a 'knowledge organiser' (a sheet of the most important facts and concepts to learn) for each half term's scheme of learning. Your child should develop their independent learning skills by using the knowledge organisers in different ways to help them to prepare for assessments and learn the key information. Parents and carers can help by asking their child questions about the meanings, spellings and concepts on the knowledge organisers. Here is an example of the **Year 8 Knowledge Organiser for Science...**

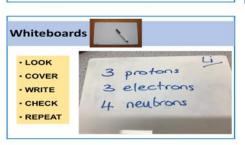


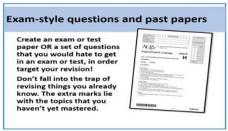
Ways to use your knowledge organiser and develop your independent learning skills.



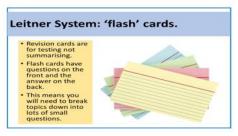


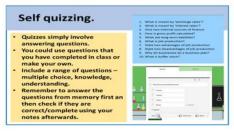


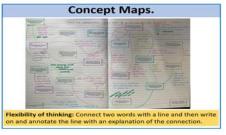












BECOMING AN INDEPENDENT LEARNER

Independent Learning Skills and Qualities		Is this me yet? What can I do to help myself to develop this skill or quality?	Rate yourself
	I am organised. I manage my time by setting short term goals. I have the equipment I need.		
	I take responsibility for my actions.		
(+) (+)	I am positive. I know that I can improve if I keep trying and persevere, especially when I don't understand at all.		
3 ©	I understand that working and thinking hard now will help me to achieve in the future. I know that having a long-term goal can help me through difficult times.		
?···×	I am prepared to make and learn from mistakes. I see challenges as problems to solve. I ask the question: Why? How? What if?		
	I step out of my comfort zone and push myself to do, see and discover new things. I try out new learning techniques.		
2 2 2	I reflect. I think about how I learn. I listen to advice and act upon feedback.		
	I praise myself and remember to celebrate my success, big or small. I recognise what I have achieved and how much progress I have made.		

HOW IS MY CHILD'S WORK ASSESSED IN YEAR 8?

Each subject will have several key assessments throughout the year and an end of year exam. Each key assessment will also assess aspects of learning from previous schemes so that students are revisiting and consolidating their understanding throughout the year.

Here is an example of the assessment criteria that will be shared with students before they complete their first key assessment in Year 8 History.

Students are taken through what the teacher expects to see in their work in order to achieve the highest mark ('Advanced' band).

The criteria for all subjects in Years 7-9 is set out in the same way, reading left to right, from 'Foundation' to 'Advanced', so that students can see what they need to know, do and understand in order to make progress.

A student could meet the 'Secure' criteria for this first assessment but in their next assessment, depending on the skills and knowledge being assessed, their work might meet a different criteria band such as 'Working Towards' or 'Advanced'. In this way, students and teachers will be able to see where each student's strengths are and which areas they need to develop.

*You have written some statements about Quarry Bank Mill. *You have written some statements about Samuel Greg. *You have written some general information about factory conditions during the Industrial Revolution rather than focussing on Quarry Bank Mill. *You have not written a judgement/ conclusion. At the upper end of this band: You have tried to list a couple of points that do support him being a good OR bad employer. 1-4 marks *You have included some good facts e.g. names/people/places to develop your answer. *You have used the bullet points to produce a balanced answer. *You include a range of reasons to support your opinion about whether he was a good/bad employer. *You list/ describe reasons to support your argument rather than explain them. *You attempt a conclusion. At the upper end of this band: You will include knowledge that goes beyond the bullet points in the question 5-8 marks	*You have included accurate and detailed facts/ knowledge. *You have included a wide range of reasons to support your opinions about whether he was a good/bad employer. *You have tried to explain some reasons why Greg was a good/ bad employer. *You reach a judgement in the conclusion with some clear criteria to justify our opinion. At the upper end of this band: You use knowledge that goes beyond the bullet points in the question 9-12 marks	answer (focus on the Q). *You have accurately used extensive knowledge to support your points. *You have written analytically by linking points together to evaluate them. *Your conclusion will reflect the evidence you have included in your answer. At the very upper end of this band: You have also considered the 'how far' element of the question in your conclusion 13-16 marks
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Assessment Bands	Grades reported home
Advanced	7,8,9
Secure	5,6
Working Towards	3,4
(becoming secure)	
Foundation	1,2

STUDENTS' REPORTS

Parents will be sent reports home on a termly basis. If a student has been given a grade 7, 8 or 9 in a subject it means they have been consistently meeting the 'Advanced' criteria in all of their assessments. Where a student has met different criteria bands in their key assessments, the teacher will look at the bands

that have been met the most and take into account, the skills and knowledge which are most essential to the subject before awarding a grade. All students are encouraged to strive to meet the 'Advanced' criteria.

Conversation Starters for Parents and Carers to use with their child when talking about learning.

What have you been learning about today?	What can you teach me about?	What does mean? (Choose a word from your child's knowledge organiser)
What's your opinion on this topic?	What are you less sure about or find difficult to understand? What do you need to do or ask?	Which part are you less confident with? How can we find out more?
Have you proofread your work and thought about how to improve it? Have a go at doing this and show me your improvements later.	Show me how you are organising your work so that it is kept in the correct sequence or order. Show me how you take PRIDE in your work.	Show me your work from today or this week in [name of subject]. What might your teacher say is a strength with this work? What might they say is an area to improve?
Why do you think this might be important to know or learn?	Which is your best piece of work so far? Why do you think this is?"	How you do you spell?

Questions to ask your child about the book they're reading.

Can you tell me what the book is about as a brief summary?	What has happened so far?	Who are the main characters in the story?
What do you like about this book? or What don't you like?	What genre or type of book is it?	What made you choose that book to read?
Who is the author?	Who is your favourite character? Describe them for me and say why you like them best.	Would you recommend that book to someone else?

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HELP MY CHILD WITH MATHS! ... YES, you can!

Students are required to have strong numeracy skills across a range of subjects, as well as in mathematics. As with literacy, numeracy is embedded across the curriculum in many subjects, but it is particularly noticeable in Science, Geography, PE and Music where students are required to actively use their number skills in a wide range of contexts.

• Be positive about maths – research shows that parents pass on their own anxiety about maths to their children, particularly mums to daughters. It's much better to say:



- 'I don't know how to do that what can you tell me about it?'
- I've seen how much effort and time you've put into working that out, well done. Maths is about practice and solving problems, it takes time. You might not be able to understand it first time.'
- I have to work really hard at maths, but I keep improving with time.'
- 'What do you think the question is asking you to do? Can you tell me what the signs mean?'
- 'Where could we get help with this maths question?'
- Never say things like "I can't do maths" or "I hate maths" or "I'm rubbish at maths as well, don't worry." We would never say it was OK to be awful, at reading or to not bother with learning how to write! Your child may start to think that maths isn't important and that there is no point in trying they will then struggle even more with maths because they have lost confidence in their own ability.
- Point out the maths in everyday life. Include your child in activities involving numbers and measuring, such as shopping, cooking and travelling.
- Always praise your child for their effort, not their ability. It's not helpful to praise them for being 'clever' because the minute they struggle with something, they then worry that they are no longer clever. If you praise effort, it shows them that by working hard they can always improve. Research shows that progress comes from working at the things you find difficult and not giving up. We spend more time on the things we like, which is why we keep getting better at them. Just like reading, maths skills are improved by doing maths frequently and accepting that learning new concepts will take time.
- We learn in life and in maths by making mistakes. Getting things wrong and working out what went wrong, why and where, is an important part of learning.



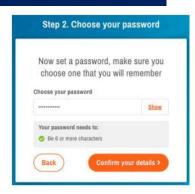
USING SPARXMATHS.COM

Sparxmaths.com is a fantastic online resource which students will use for homework and revision in Maths. Sparxmaths contains instructional videos and automatically marked assessments on every topic students learn from Year 7 up to the most challenging GCSE topics.

LOGGING ON TO SPARX

Go to **sparx.co.uk**, click 'log-in' in the top right hand corner and select 'student log-in'. Select **Saddleworth** school from the dropdown list. If this is the first time of logging in, select 'new Sparx user', enter your name and date of birth in order to confirm your username.

The first time students log in they will be asked to choose a **password** and should make sure that their chosen password is memorable and at least 6 characters long. Students can request a password re-set. This won't be immediate as it has to be authorised by the class teacher.



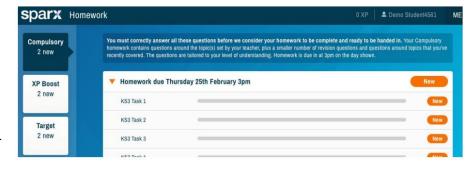
USING SPARX

Sparx homework is tailored to each student and offers just the right level of challenge, based on the topics that their teacher has set. Homework contains 3 elements: **Compulsory, XP Boost and Target**.

All questions in the **'Compulsory'** section must be answered correctly for the homework to be marked as complete.

Each task bar will show as green when fully complete. For homework to be complete, all task bars need to be green.

'XP Boost' questions are at a similar level to 'Compulsory', and offer



extra practice. 'Target' questions have been designed to provide extra challenge to students.

MISTAKES ARE PART OF LEARNING AND HELP SPARX TO DIAGNOSE STUDENTS' LEVELS

Even if a student thinks they will answer incorrectly, they should make the first attempt on a question without help. This will allow their teacher to see what they are working on, and also helps Sparx and School correctly determine their level.

If a student receives too much assistance with their homework, Sparx may think they're able to tackle more difficult questions and their work will get harder. To prevent this, parents should encourage students to attempt the question first and watch the support video <u>before</u> getting help from others.

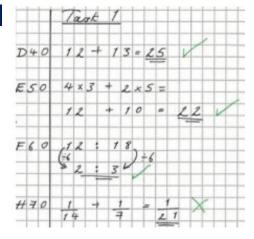
Watching the video together is a great way to support and encourage students. If a student gets a question wrong three times, Sparx will suggest they seek help and the teacher is notified.

BOOKWORK CHECKS

In Sparx, every question is accompanied by a 'bookwork code'. Students need to write the bookwork code down, and then write their workings and answer next to the code like in the example here:

When students are asked for the answer they gave for a particular bookwork code, they need to give the exact answer they wrote down, even if it was wrong. If a student fails a bookwork check in Sparx, they will need to re-do the question, even if they originally gave the correct answer. This is to encourage them to record their workings.

The more bookwork checks a student gets correct, the fewer they'll see.



WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY CHILD'S LITERACY?

At Saddleworth School, we have a whole school focus on supporting students to develop their literacy skills. We call it **'Language for Learning'** because children need literacy to engage with the written word in everyday life. Being able to read and write means being able to; express our own

emotions and opinions; communicate effectively, keep up to date with current news and understand the issues that affect our world.

 Refer to the school's language for learning initiative as seen here.

Students will be asked to **speak** in full sentences in class and to extend their answers wherever they can to practise using

Language for Learning

Speaking We say it in a sentence.

Listening We listen with respect.

Reading We need to read.

Writing We plan, practise and proofread for SPaG.

an increasingly sophisticated vocabulary and to explore their own thoughts and opinions.

Listening to others is key to all effective communication. Without the ability to listen effectively, messages can be easily misunderstood resulting in frustration.

Good listening skills benefit our personal lives because we can develop better relationships. Active listeners, who really take notice of what is being said, and how it is being said, are more likely to have a greater number of friends and social networks, improved self-esteem and confidence, higher grades in academic work and even better health and general well-being. Studies have shown that, whereas speaking raises blood pressure, attentive listening can bring it down!

 Make time to have a conversation with your child – discuss a story from the news or what's happened during the day. Encourage your child to be able to talk about how they're feeling and why – if we can recognise our emotions, we are more able to manage them.



- Model speaking in full sentences.
- Model how to listen with concentration and sensitivity to what they are saying.

How can my child improve their writing?

- ...by reading! We pick up ideas and see different methods of communicating when we read. We learn new words to use in our own writing when we read.
- ...by talking! If we can say it, we are more likely to be able to write it which is why we promote speaking in full sentences.
- ...by practising! Writing fluency comes from practising.

Young people may spend a great deal of their time writing using technology but being able to handwrite is an essential skill in school. Writing is the way in which most students demonstrate their understanding. Writing equips us with communication and thinking skills – being able to write means that we can record our ideas and memories.

What if I need to refresh my own literacy or need some more information about literacy?

Please contact c.evans@saddleworthschool.org for a copy of Saddleworth School's 'Literacy Guide'.

MY CHILDREN WANT TO KNOW WHY I KEEP ASKING THEM TO READ!

Children often ask why they need to read – here are some useful, factual and honest responses!

- When reading, we learn new words which widens our vocabulary and makes communicating with other people easier.
- Reading improves your memory because as you read, you have to stretch your memory muscles to remember the characters, storyline, details and facts.
- Reading will boost your creativity by giving you more ideas and helping you to problem solve.
- When you read, you exercise your brain, you think more – reading increases your knowledge and so studying becomes easier.
- Reading improves your writing skills because you
 often use words, structures and even ideas that you
 have read about in your own writing.



How else can I support the development of my child's literacy?

- Talk to your child about their learning.
- Check that your child is practising writing from shopping lists to stories.
- Encourage your child to read for at least 20 minutes every night.
- Quiz your child on the meanings and spellings of key words in each subject.
- Quiz your child using the knowledge organisers form each subject.
- Check that your child is proofreading their own work for grammar and spelling errors before considering it complete.
- Encourage your child to speak in Standard English whenever appropriate.
- Promote a love of reading at home by suggesting books from the reading lists on these sites: https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk or www.booktrust.org.uk or www.lovereading4schools.co.uk

Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight? Student "C" Student "A" Student "B" eads 20 minutes reads 5 minutes reads 1 minute each day each day each day 3600 minutes in 900 minutes in 180 minutes in school year a school year a school year 800,000 words 282,000 words 8,000 words

Where else can I find useful advice?

 You can find useful advice for students on the BBC Bitesize website at http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv

RESEARCH FINDINGS: Reading means achieving

Recent research into the reading skills of 15 year olds across the world, found that children who are more interested in reading do better at school than those who don't read for pleasure. The study also found that parents and carers who talk to their children about books, TV programmes and films help to keep their children interested in reading. Having books, newspapers and magazines around at home also made a difference to how interested children were in reading.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD TO READ?

- Let your child choose what to read.
- Encourage your child to read magazines, comics, newspapers and the internet as well as books.
- Talk to your child about books or magazines you haven't enjoyed, as well as things you love.
- Buy books as presents.
- Remember that your child is reading when they are looking at bus timetables, menus, instructions, TV guides and the internet.
- Help your child to find books they will enjoy by joining the public library, if you are not already members.
- Read together.

• Talk to your child about the types of reading they are doing at secondary school; get them to explain to you what they already know about types of non-fiction (factual writing), and try to match them to the subjects your child does at school.

"If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." J.K. Rowling.

The School Library

The Library is located on Shawmere floor 2 and the School's Librarian is Mr Carter who is always at hand to recommend and help students with their reading.

Email: r.carter@saddleworthschool.org

The Library is open every day from 8am until 4pm and is open to ALL students from all year groups at break and lunch times. As well as housing more than 5,000 books, the Library has a suite of computers and a printer so that students can undertake their own research, complete homework and prepare for exams.

We have extended our school library to enable students to borrow e-books and audio books free of charge from a wide range of thousands of different books. To set up their e-account, students will need to drop into the Library.

Where else can I get books from?

Visit Oldham library webpage here and get access to online magazines, newspapers, e-books and audio books for free! www.oldham.gov.uk/libraries

Become a member of Oldham, public libraries. Membership of the library service is free to all residents in Oldham. You do not need to provide any identification in order to join. There is no minimum age for joining, but those under the age of 13 years require the presence of a parent or carer to complete registration. If you are not sure that you have an existing account then call 0161 770 8000.

Reading age tests

We use the NGRT tests to assess students' reading ages. Any student whose reading age is significantly below their chronological age is supported through a variety of reading interventions depending on their need.

HOW DOES THE SCHOOL SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING?

#respect

#kindness

Keeping our physical and mental health in check is important. Good mental health allows children and young people to develop the resilience to manage whatever life throws at them and develop into well-rounded, healthy adults.

There is clear evidence that emotional wellbeing is a key indicator of academic achievement, and subsequently improved outcomes in later life. The Department for Education has found that, on average, children with higher levels of emotional, behavioural, social and school wellbeing, had higher levels of academic achievement and were more engaged in school.

At Saddleworth School, we challenge any negative perceptions about mental health and actively discuss and promote strategies, events and organisations which support young people to understand that we all have times in our life when we need support and we need to be able to recognise the signs of poor mental health and have some helpful strategies.

Further evidence points to how a student's ability to manage their own emotions can either support or hamper their learning, commitment and ultimate school success.



- We have SPACE (Saddleworth School's Personal, Academic, Cultural Awareness and Enrichment) lessons which includes Relationships & Sex Education and provides opportunities for students to discuss and explore issues pertinent to them. We ask students for feedback and use surveys to improve provision.
- We strive to help students develop self-confidence by discussing 'growth mindset' and using a positive, optimistic language with students.
- We promote the '5 Ways to Wellbeing' and explicitly discuss strategies for coping with exams, stressful situations and frustration with learning.
- We have comprehensive pastoral support and work closely with external agencies to support young people with interventions to meet their identified needs.

HOW CAN I SUPPORT MY CHILD'S WELLBEING?

- 1. Encourage them to get their 5 Ways to Wellbeing each day.
- 2. **Talk to them about mental health and the importance of good sleep**, 8-10 hours per night. Using phones, tablets and laptops can impact on our sleep keep screens out of bedrooms!
- 3. **Model good habits** If you are taking care of your own mental health, it's easier for them to see what good habits look like.
- 4. **Consider your own and their use of phones and social media**. More than 2 hours per day on social media is excessive. We're also more likely to listen to one another if we're not distracted by technology.
- 5. **Notice any changes in your child's behaviour**. Knowing what is normal for your child makes it easier to notice when things change, and if this might be a sign that they're struggling.

The 5 Ways to Wellbeing



Connect

Connect with people around you. Spend time with your friends and family. Make new friends. Use different ways to communicate.



Be Active

Go for a walk or a run. Cycle, dance or play a game. Walk to school instead of getting the bus. Go to the park. Try a new activity.



Take Notice

Take time to be still, reflect, and become aware of your surroundings. Notice what you are thinking and be aware of what's going on in the world around you: the everyday and the unusual. Be curious. Savour your favourite food and try new foods.



Keep Learning

Set yourself a goal. Learn something new. Research something you're interested in. Learn a new word or a random fact. Remember that making mistakes is an important of learning...so you know how to improve.



Give

Do something nice for a friend. Thank someone. Smile. Volunteer your time. Raise money for charity. Be a good role model. Being kind to others will see others being kind to you.

ORGANISATIONS WHICH PROVIDE ADVICE AND SUPPORT



For information on internet safety and a parent and carers guide to online monitoring of your children's internet use, go to:



www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

For information and support on mental health and wellbeing.



https://youngminds.org.uk



https://www.kooth.com



Anna Freud <u>https://ww</u> National Centre for Children and Families

https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind



https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/improve-mental-wellbeing

How we develop wellbeing through the curriculum at Saddleworth.

We are a	We are	We are resilient and	We celebrate our	We participate
community.	responsible.	optimistic.	differences.	with enthusiasm.
We are polite and considerate to each other.We look after our	 We learn how to look after our physical and mental health. 	 We aim high and are determined to achieve our goals. We understand that it's part of 	 We challenge prejudice. We develop our understanding of the world and our role as a 	We make the most of every opportunity.We have a positive
environment.	• We make informed decisions.	life and learning to make	global citizen.	attitude.
	We reflect on what's	mistakes.	 We help and care for those in 	 We step outside of our
	happened and why.	• We keep trying.	need.	comfort zones.
How do my behaviours affect	What are the 5 ways to	What am I good at?	What is it to be an upstander?	What am I enthusiastic
others?	wellbeing?	What could I be really brilliant at?	What's a bystander?	about? How intrepid am I?
What is it to be a friend?	How does exercise help my	What is a growth mind-set? Why does	What is oppression?	Why should I step outside
What are the ingredients of a	wellbeing?	effort trump talent?	What is prejudice?	my comfort zone?
good relationship?	What do I know about the	What's the power of 'yet'?	How empathetic am I?	What opportunities are
What is kindness?	teenage brain?	Who would be an excellent role	What is an effective way of	available to me?
How does the kindness of	How do I deal with my emotions?	model? Who/What inspires me?	challenging someone's views?	Who can I ask for help?
others make us feel?	Can I control anger?	What do I want for myself in the	How can I find out more about the	Who could I support?
What does being kind to	What makes me tick? What	future? What will I need to do to get	world? Do I believe everything I	Who might participate with
others do for me?	makes me upset? How do I lift	there?	read or hear?	me?
What is it to be unkind?	my own spirits? What makes me	Why do we need to read?	What happened in the news	How can I make sure I get
What do I care about? Are	over-react?	What does it mean to be 'digitally	today? What can I do to be more	involved and make the most
these things just important to	What is 'appropriate	literate'?	involved in the issues that are	of each day?
me?	behaviour'? Can I explain calmly	What is 'glass half empty'?	important to me?	What is a 'team player'?
What do I value?	to others how I am feeling?	What is optimism?	What is suffering?	What might stop me from
What is integrity?	Why is communication	How can I become an independent	Who helps those in need?	participating?
What is a 'community'?	important?	learner? What does an excellent	Can one person change things?	Why does a positive attitude
How important is it to feel that	What is 'active listening'?	learner do?	Why volunteer?	make such a difference?
you belong?	How do I develop critical thinking	What is meta-cognition?	Why are charities needed?	What is humour?
What can you do to make you	skills?	How do I respond to criticism and	What change would I like to see in	What is sarcasm?
feel proud of our community?	Why is it important to reflect?	feedback? How can I develop	the world?	It was just a joke. Is there a
How can our community	How do I manage change?	resilience?	What is the 'rule of law'?	funny side for everyone?
change for the better?	What does 'controlling the	What does it feel like outside my	How do we show 'mutual respect'?	Which type of humour helps
What could be your legacy for	controllables' mean?	comfort zone? How can I develop my	What is 'democracy'?	and which hurts?
our community?	How can I lead a happy and	self-confidence?	What is 'individual liberty'?	What makes me laugh?
	fulfilling life?	Why are problem-solving skills	Who protects human rights?	What power is there in
		important?		laughter?

Keeping tabs on my 5 a day!



Write down how you've kept yourself mentally and physically healthy today in the columns below...

CONNECT	BEACTIVE	TAKE NOTICE	KEEP LEARNING	Give	
Examples:	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:	Examples:	
 Ask a friend about their weekend and pay attention and listen when they tell you. Make contact with someone you used to hang out with. Ask your parents or carer 	 Play your favourite song and dance to it. Walk to school. Go to your local park. Stretch and move your limbs in the morning, midday and evening. Work it out! 	 Take notice of what you are thinking. Not to judge or be hard on yourself, but just to be more aware of yourself. Really savour every mouthful of your lunch, noticing the texture, flavour, how the food feels, 	 Learn a new word. Create a quiz to do with your family. Learn a new language. Learn a new dance routine or the words to a new song. Learn more about your 	 Smile and be willing to give your time to a conversation. Check up on a friend. Say thank you to someone who has helped you - send a text, or message or write them a letter to show how 	
 about their childhood. Write a letter or send a postcard to someone. Smile at a person on the street and say hello. 	Walk the dog.Do some gardening.	tastes. • Consider your strengths – do you make the most of them? • Watch animals and birds outside.	family history.	much it meant to you.	

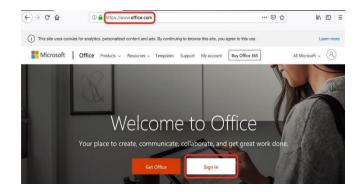
HOW DO WE GET SETUP FOR ONLINE LEARNING FROM HOME?

This document shows students and parents how to access the key areas in Office 365.

Office 365 Login: Students should open a web browser and go to the website www.office.com then click Sign In.

Their sign-in email address is of the format surnameforename@saddleworthschool.org:





For double-barrel names use a hyphen e.g. bloggs-bloggsjoe@saddleworthschool.org.

The **password** is the same password that students use to log onto a computer at school.

Office 365 Apps:

Once the email and password are entered students will arrive at the Office 365 home page.



There are 4 key areas we will focus on:

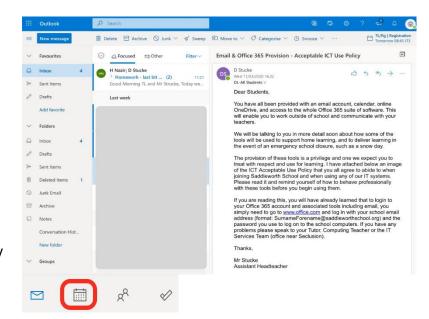
- 1. Install Office: Our education license means that students can install the full Microsoft Office suite of software on any family devices. If you are on a traditional computer you can download and install them via the 'Install Office' link. If you are using a phone or a tablet you can download the Word, PowerPoint etc apps from the App Store. When the applications are installed they will ask you to sign in to register them. Use the email address and password from the previous step. The whole family can benefit from these applications.
- 2. Outlook: This contains the student email and calendar.
- **3. OneDrive:** This is an online folder where students can store their electronic work, this can be accessed from any device in or out of school.
- **4. Teams:** This is our class-based communication tool and learning platform.

I'm not sure how to use Outlook. Is it easy to use?

Clicking the Outlook icon from www.office.com will bring students to their email:

Students can read emails and reply to emails (but only to addresses within school).

At the bottom left of the screen, students can switch to their calendar by clicking the small calendar icon:



Students should turn on the 'Timetable (Ruler)' calendar by checking the box next to it – this will add their timetable to their calendar. During a normal school day, this will allow students to see their lessons for the day ahead.

Students may choose to download and install the Outlook app to a phone or tablet. This gives them easy access to their email and school calendar at all times.



How does OneDrive work?

Tapping the 9 square 'waffle' menu in the top left of any Office 365 website brings up the application switcher. OneDrive can be accessed from this menu.

This is an online folder where students can store their electronic work, this can be accessed from any device in or out of school. Students have been encouraged in school lessons to copy their school network documents into

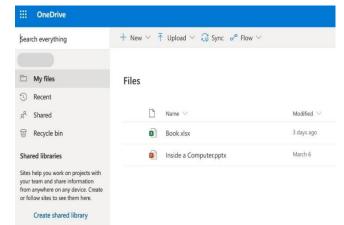
Office 365 →

Apps

Outlook

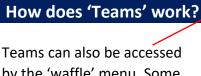
OneDrive ::

OneDrive as this means they have easy access to them from home.



If students complete work at home and save it into their OneDrive they can easily access it again at school. Uploading files is as simple as dragging and dropping from a computer folder if working on a computer.

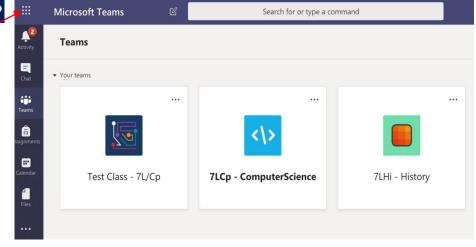
Again, a OneDrive app is available for tablets and phones that gives access to files on those devices.



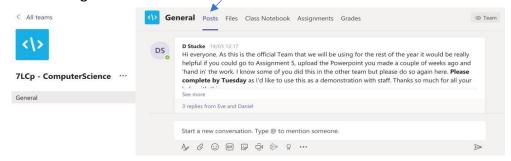
by the 'waffle' menu. Some subjects use Teams.

Students should find a Team for each class that they have in school.

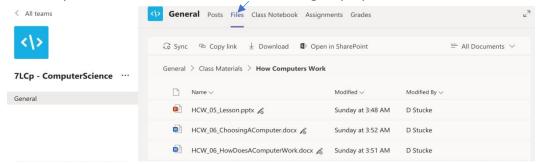
Clicking on a class icon will open up the Team for that class.



The 'Posts' section will have messages from the teacher and other students:



The 'Files' section stores any files that have been shared with the group by the teacher:

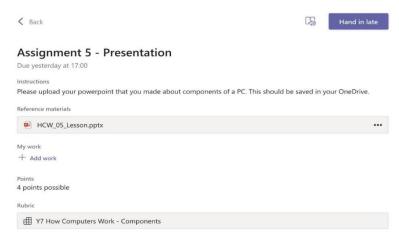


The 'Assignments' section is where specific learning tasks may have been shared. This would be used if students have a deadline to work to, or work to return:



To complete assignments in Teams, students should read the instructions carefully. Either complete the attached files or use the 'attach' button to upload other work. Once the student's work is completed and ready to send to their teacher, they have to press the 'Hand In' button.





As well as a 'Team' for each class, students will find they are a member of a Year Team called 'Class of '.

What if we're struggling to understand how to use MS Teams? What if we haven't got a laptop? We're having technical issues!



The IT team at Saddleworth School will try to support you wherever possible. We do have some laptops available for students to loan.

Please phone the School Reception on 01457 872072 to ask to speak to Mr Gary Hudson or Miss Evans or email them on g.hudson@saddleworthschool.org or c.evans@saddleworthschool.org



Class Charts is a great online tool for parents and students. At Saddleworth, we use Class Clarts for attendance, behaviour, homework, recognition and communication. Parents and students require a log on. Please refer to the separate Class Charts booklet for more details or contact your child's Home School Leader.