



23rd June 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you to those parents/carers who responded to our recent Home Learning Survey, we had 189 family responses from years 7 to 10. Without your input, we cannot continue to refine our systems or make the improvements necessary to better support our students and you as parents/carers.

We appreciate the honesty, thoughtfulness, and breadth of the feedback provided; it has helped us to build a clearer understanding of what is working well and where there is still more to do.

What's Working Well

- Clear instructions and structured tasks – most students are confident in completing home learning when expectations are clear.
- Accessible and effective platforms – systems like Sparx, Pearson and EverLearner were praised for ease of use and reliability, particularly as students grow in confidence with them.
- Consistency in key subjects – core areas such as Maths and Languages are setting regular and predictable home learning, helping students manage their time and routines.
- Value placed on home learning – many families agree that it plays a useful role in building independence and reinforcing classroom learning.

What We Need to Improve and Our Response

1. Revision and Assessment Preparation

One of the most consistent messages from families was the need for greater clarity around revision and assessment timelines. Many parents/carers told us they often don't know when assessments are happening or what content their children need to revise, and that students themselves sometimes struggle to organise their preparation.

From September, we will look to issue clearer revision timetables and key assessment dates well in advance for all year groups. Subject teachers will provide structured guidance on what to revise and how to revise it, including suggested strategies and resources.

We are developing a more consistent approach to revision across subjects, particularly in the lead-up to internal assessments and exams, to ensure students are better prepared and feel more confident.



2. Home Learning That Supports Classroom Learning

Too often families shared that home learning was being set on content that hadn't yet been taught, particularly in Maths and Science. This disconnect can create frustration and anxiety.

We're working with all Heads of Faculty to ensure that home learning reflects the material covered in lessons and builds on what students already understand. When new topics are introduced for pre-learning, this will be made clear and supported appropriately. We will also be mindful of home learning set when a member of staff is absent.

3. Feedback and Parental Visibility

We heard clearly that many parents/carers don't see the feedback their child receives or aren't sure if feedback is given at all. Without this, it's hard to know how well students are doing, or where they need support.

We are reinforcing the expectation that teachers give meaningful feedback on significant pieces of home learning, and we will be investigating how we can share students' progress when they are completing home learning online so that parents/carers can track progress and support more effectively. From September we will be asking staff to allow books to go home on a more regular basis so that you can see the pride your child takes in their work and will be able to have a dialogue with them about what they are learning.

4. Encouraging Curiosity

Several parents called for a better balance between consolidating knowledge and encouraging creativity and engagement.

We want home learning to inspire students and foster a love of learning so we will be encouraging faculties to vary the types of tasks being set. Where appropriate, we want to promote deeper thinking, research, reflection, and curiosity without losing the important part of consolidation and retention. Retrieval and repetition also have their place; the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) highlights retrieval practice as a powerful learning strategy, it's the act of recalling information from memory that is crucial for strengthening learning and improving long-term retention. It also helps move information from short-term to long-term memory, making it more readily available in the future which will be crucial for the students as they progress through the school.



5. Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Home Learning

We recognise that more students are experimenting with AI tools to complete home learning, sometimes without a clear understanding of when this is helpful and/or appropriate.

We are developing a clear, whole-school strategy for the responsible use of AI in learning. Our goal is to help students understand how to use AI ethically, critically, and effectively to support their learning, not replace it. Once we are clear on this, we will share the strategy with you.

6. Consistency and Clarity Across Platforms

A number of parents/carers raised that juggling multiple platforms and logins can be frustrating. Confusion over where home learning is set or how to access it was a common theme.

We will review the online platforms currently in use, providing you with information on how they are used and when they are used. For example in Maths Sparx Maths is used. Sparx Maths offers several opportunities to get a question right, using different numbers for each question, and if the student is unable to come up with the correct answer it directs them to an embedded 'how to...' video. Once the student has watched the video, fresh questions are offered. Finally, if the student is still experiencing challenges Sparx Maths informs the student to refer to their teacher for more support.

We will reiterate to all staff that Edulink is the platform where all home learning is set so you as parent/carers know exactly where you can see what your child has been set. Clearer instructions in some instances are also needed so you know what is required and can support when necessary. There is also a box that staff will fill in on Edulink to show how long they think the home learning should take to complete. This will give you a better indication if your child is taking much longer than advised and you can then let us know, we are happy for you to decide when enough is enough.

7. Home Learning Completion Dates

In some cases, the home learning set and due date are not when the next lesson in the subject is, this could mean that the home learning is not then discussed in the lesson, so students do not get feedback. If the home learning is not in sync with the class learning it can add an unnecessary organisation problem for a student.

We will ask staff to check completion dates for home learning to ensure that where possible it is in line with students' lessons in the subject and will ask them to try not to set home learning that is expected to be completed over the weekend. We will also ask staff not to move deadlines for home learning as this is not fair on those young people who have completed it on time.



Whole School Action

We've shared the full survey results with Heads of Faculty, and they are actively reviewing the feedback relevant to their subject areas. This is already prompting important conversations around:

- Setting home learning consistency
- Feedback practices
- Platform use
- Workload balance
- Useful and enriching learning

We are looking for these changes to take place from September and will be talking to all our students about the importance of home learning and how we can support them further.

The link below will take you to the home learning procedures for each faculty area, details of who you should contact in a faculty if you have a question with regard to home learning can be found here: [Home Learning at The Marlborough Science Academy](#)

Please remember too that if home learning is really stressful at home, we run a home learning club every afternoon from 3.15 – 4.15pm in the LRC (the club finishes at 3.45pm on a Friday). This is supervised by staff from the Specialised Learning Team and is designed to offer support, confidence, and guidance.

Once again, thank you for your time, honesty, and support. As with everything we do we will continually review, amend, and adapt and seek feedback and support from you.

Yours sincerely,



Mr M Fitzgibbon
Senior Deputy Headteacher

