

Does length of homework have an impact on attainment?

The relationship between homework length and attainment is a hotly debated topic in educational research.

Our latest research trial revealed that **longer homework** given to students **significantly improves their attainment in maths**, so that teachers can now take this into consideration in the context of their class.

The trial

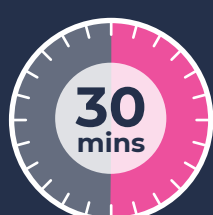
368
Year 7

students
from 3
schools

The trial took place over 15 weeks with a test before and after to **measure progress**. During this time, the pupils were taught **algebra** along with other topics.

We analysed the test results, and put in place measures to remove any after effects of the trial on the participating students.

Students were split into **4 groups** and each group was given a **different length** of **algebra** homework in their weekly 1-hour Sparx Maths homework.



Ground breaking trial design



The use of Sparx Maths as a **digital platform to deliver personalised homework** has created an opportunity for a completely new type of study.



Students can be randomly assigned to trial arms without the teacher, the student, or the researcher being aware of the assigned arm for each student (known as a **double-blind Randomised Controlled Trial**).

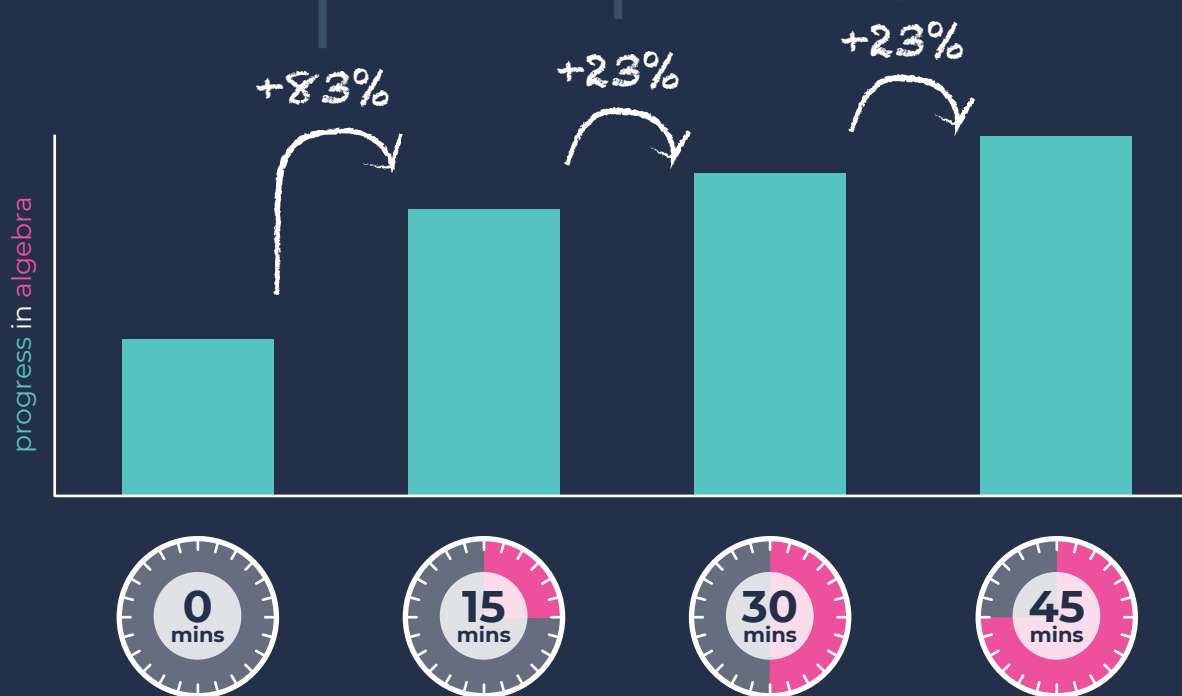


As Sparx Maths is a **sophisticated online learning platform** with the ability to **predict how long each student will likely spend** on each question, it allows a homework length to be precisely assigned to each student.

Our findings

Students made **83% more progress** by completing just **15 minutes** of weekly Sparx **algebra** homework compared to those who didn't complete any...

...and **23% more progress** for every 15 minutes of additional Sparx **algebra** homework thereafter.



The more time spent on Sparx homework...



...the more progress a student makes.

In summary

This study provides very strong evidence that **Sparx homework does significantly improve attainment**.

We found that **the longer the homework, the more progress a student made**. Teachers can now take this into consideration in the context of their class and encourage students to complete their optional and target Sparx homework.

This is the first time that this has been tested using a double-blind RCT and illustrates the potential of **using digital platforms to resolve long-standing educational questions**.



sparx