



Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you for a fantastic start to the new term, Students have been exemplary. Their uniform is smart and engagement in learning is better than ever. We are proud of the GCSE exam results this summer and with such an excellent start to the year, we are confident we will continue to build on this success.

I wanted to point you to key information about where to access key information about what your child is learning each half term in every subject. This can be found easily on the **school website** under the tab **curriculum**. You can click on each subject and view the full 5-year journey through school. This is also helpful for parents/carers who wish to further students learning out of school, seek additional tuition or simply find out more.

Please see the link here. <https://www.erhs.org.uk/page/?title=Subjects&pid=60>

From today, there is an exciting new addition to your child's learning experience – the Maximise Folder. This will again provide you with information about what your child is learning each half term. Mr Cassidy, our new Assistant Headteacher, is leading on this strategy and would like to communicate the following information.

What is a Maximise Folder?

A maximise folder:

- Will be provided to every student in Years 7-10 at the beginning of the Autumn term in September.
- Will include a personalised front page and clearly marked sections for each subject. These sections will contain each subject's maximise sheets.

What is a Maximise Sheet?

Maximise Sheets provide:

- **key, knowledge and indispensable information** for students to revise prior to assessments. This is a summary of the knowledge and skills students should be proficient in to master the current unit of study.
- **Key vocabulary for the current unit of study.** There is, of course, a lot more to literacy than simply remembering key words, but if students are able to use subject-specific vocabulary, correctly spelt and applied, this will go a long way to ensuring that they understand the topic.
- **Additional opportunities for further learning and the chance to 'become an expert'.** This is the part of the maximise sheet which separates it from most traditional 'knowledge organisers' at other schools. Each department has provided an array of ways in which students can be inspired to independently challenge themselves and become experts in a topic, whether that be through additional reading, watching of relevant material, or out-of-class activities.

Why are we introducing the Maximise Folders?

Learning can be defined as an alteration in long term memory, if nothing has been remembered, nothing has been learned. Here at Ellesmere Park High School, the purpose of our curriculum is to equip every child with the knowledge, skills and personal qualities in order to **reach the limits of their capability**, regardless of their background, additional needs, experience or social privilege. Students' learning should not be confined to their timetabled lessons.

Students here are given a rich and stimulating experience in the classroom. Students' curiosity is piqued at various points and in various subjects throughout the day but, in order to maximise the gift of education, and to **reach the limits of their capability**, we want students to have the opportunity to take that learning further outside of their lessons and to become experts.

What do students need to do with their Maximise Folder?

Students will be expected to bring their Maximise Folder into school every day. These are being issued in lessons over the next week and students will already have collected some today. Class teachers will frequently refer to the Maximise Sheets in lessons and will also ensure students are aware exactly which elements need to be studied, learned and



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remembered before the next lesson. The Maximise Folder will become a fundamental aspect of your child's learning experience from September onwards. **This is a part of standard uniform and equipment.**

Homework will be set from these and we will be in touch with your child's homework expectations next week.

Where can I find electronic copies of the maximise folder?

Again, on the school website. Click curriculum and either download the subject sheets from there or go to the maximise section and access from there. This will allow you and your child to access video links simply. It would be useful to navigate around the website as soon as possible.

As a parent or carer, how can I support my child's learning?

In addition to students testing themselves and taking their learning further using the Maximise Sheets, we encourage parents and carers to engage with their child's learning through the Maximise Folder. For example, parents could use the information on the Maximise Sheets to test their children on key information, or can watch suggested clips or read suggested texts from the Maximise Sheet with their child. This will undoubtedly accelerate progress and further stimulate interest in subjects.

As per uniform expectations, all students need a bag large enough to transport the folder to and from school each day. If your child does not yet have a rucksack or large bag, the expectation is that they have this by Tuesday 20th September.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A St John
Deputy Headteacher