

Monday 15th December

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 8 Mastery Showcase Week – w/c Monday 12th January 2026

When we return after the Christmas break, all Year 8 students will have their first Assessment Week of the year, titled: **Mastery Showcase Week**. Whilst we have chosen to rename the week, we are following the model that students experienced in Year 7:

- Cumulative Assessments in every subject, with the exception of Personal Development, Supported Study and Digital Literacy
- An opportunity to demonstrate how much of the key knowledge and skills that they have developed and retained since their start in September of Year 7

The new name: Mastery Showcase, has been chosen as it is an opportunity to show off the knowledge and skills that have been mastered over time.

Whilst we place emphasis on the retention of knowledge, it is also an opportunity for students to learn and develop the skills and behaviours associated with assessments: preparation in the form of revision, sleep habits and organisation; behaviours of resilience and perseverance in sitting assessments; as well as reflective behaviours after the assessments to ensure that we continue to grow and learn from the experience. It is, in particular, these behaviours that are most important at this point in our students' journey.

Our Year 8 students have now experienced 2 Assessment Weeks. They performed superbly through Year 7, showing great resilience and determination. We are in no doubt that they will build upon this, this year.

All students have engaged in an assembly this past week, where we shared these key messages.

The 'Iceberg Illusion' image below is one that we regularly share with students (and parents!) – and goes a long way to summing up the behaviours that we must learn before we can experience success. The Mastery Showcase experience is an opportunity to do this.



Supporting Students

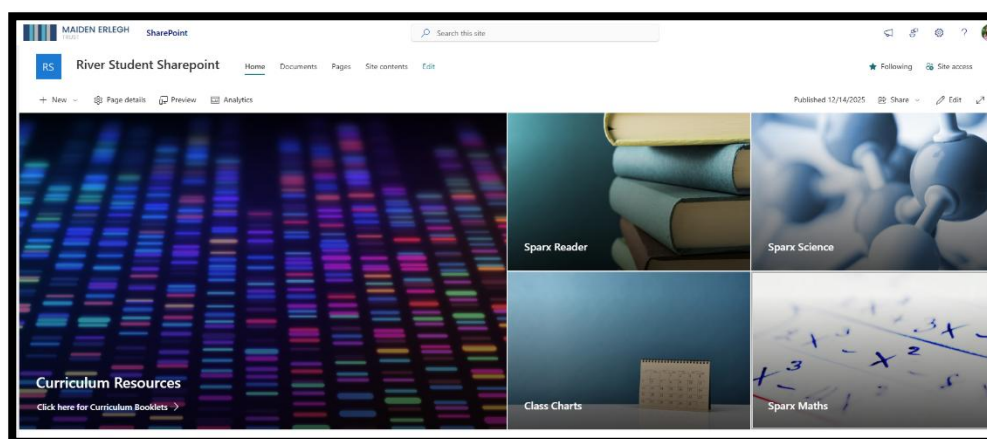
In order to support students, we will provide two avenues of resources:

1. A **'Mastery Showcase: What should I revise?' Overview** – for each subject a breakdown of the possible topics and skills being tested, as well as suggested resources and activities to support students' revision. (This will also be sent home via email.)
2. As well as this, I am delighted to share that this week, all students will be shown how to access the newly created **River Student Sharepoint**.

This is a webpage where, in school or out, students can access the Curriculum Materials that they have used as part of their studies in school – right from September of Year 7.

Whilst it is no substitute for being in the classroom, students can access pdf documents to support their revision (as well as their current home learning).

Please note that students will need to login with their School email address and password to access this page.



Key information about the Mastery Showcase week:

- Students will sit one assessment in every subject except Personal Development.
- Assessments will take place in normal lessons, i.e. the History assessment will be in a History lesson, and so will be no longer than one hour.
- When we return from Christmas, teachers will communicate in which lessons the assessments will take place. This will be logged in a timetable in students' planners.
- Students should refer to previous Curriculum Booklets and Home Learning Booklets which will support with their revision.
- As part of their Supported Study lessons, students have been explicitly taught revision methods. They should apply these to their revision.
- Students will receive their results on a Result's Day on Wednesday 4th February.
- They will be told a % score, alongside the average % score of the year group. These results will be communicated home on the same day via the My Child at School App.



Access Arrangements

Assessments have been designed to test the full range of students' abilities. All students will be able to access the papers, but they are designed to increase in difficulty. The timings given to assessments provide enough 'extra' time for those students who may require additional processing time.

Please note that at secondary school, the Access Arrangements process for external exams is very rigorous and is based on data. The arrangements made at Primary school for KS2 SATs do not have any bearing on the Access Arrangements process for GCSEs. At secondary school we need to use a variety of data sources and observations to gain approval for these measures. The Assessment Process is one way that we can gain this data.

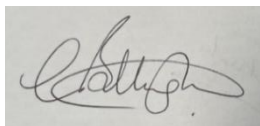
What support can you offer as parents?

As parents, the support that you can offer will be incredibly beneficial. Things like:

- Providing opportunities for your child to talk you through what they have learnt.
- Prompting your child to engage in revision tasks – little and often.
- Helping to support your child's organisation so that they know what is coming up each day, as well as ensuring that they get enough sleep and stay hydrated.
- Reassuring your child that they just need to do their best – and that this is a journey – none of us are the final product yet!

If you have any questions about the Mastery Showcase Week, you are welcome to email me via the School Office.

Kind regards,



Mrs L Billingham
Deputy Headteacher

