



Newsletter

February 2012

Issue No 18

Follow these stories and find out more at [www.mrc-academy.org/What's happening at MRC](http://www.mrc-academy.org/What's%20happening%20at%20MRC)

Special visitor - Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Exeter University



Alumni of Midhurst Grammar School, Professor Nick Talbot, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Transfer of Exeter University was given a warm welcome by students and staff earlier this term. He was pleased to combine a trip

down memory lane with presentations to students on challenges facing mankind.

Ex pupil of Herbert Shiner and MGS Head Boy, Professor Talbot said, "It is great to see the School doing so well under the inspiring leadership of Dr Vitagliano. There is a great sense of excitement among the staff and pupils. With the fantastic new facilities that will become available this year, I am looking forward to hearing more about the school's ongoing success". He was also impressed by our students, "There are some really fine young scientists at the school. It's wonderful to see that".

What are you doing this weekend?

Congratulations to Daniel Eeles (Y10) who recently came 4th in a cross country race and will now



Josh

represent Sussex at inter County level in Essex...**more cross country...** when a team of Year 7's took part in an event at Bishop Luffa this month Dan's brother Josh came first in his class - well done to all the competitors *Chris Illman, Rory Williams, Alex Berry, Harry Tollworthy, Tom Gates, Keavy Price, Carla Bradley, Chloe Grazier, Charlotte Goodall, Amy Campbell, Megan Walters, Kezzie Smith.*



Dan

Abbie and Rolo coming on in leaps and bounds...

Well done to Abbie Hanlon (Y11) in her Agility Training with five year old Rolo. They train every week and compete most weekends with great success and have ambitions for high grades and top medals in the not too distant future - Rolo's specialities are steeple chase, speed and enthusiasm!



Feeling the burn....James Gibbs

(Y8), following extensive trials and reaching the required standard James was admitted as a member of Aldershot Ski Race Club in April 2010 He trains at least twice a week and has entered nearly all the summer season Southern Region races and a number of London and Southern races. Earlier this term he was awarded the trophy for most improved skier in the Club, and more recently a bronze medal in his first winter series race at Southampton.



A key to the future for Year 9

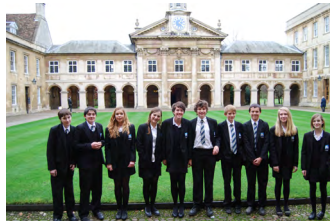
The Careers Day for Year 9 was a fantastic success with a large and diverse group of professionals giving first hand careers experience. Also, for the second year running the guest of honour status was taken by a very special guest - a lovely midnight blue Rolls Royce which almost stole the show! Well, almost, because our students were on fine form, using



their best communication and writing skills in an attempt to secure the one off experience day on offer at the RR plant in Chichester. Winning students were (l-r) Matilda Chatwood and Georgina Stemp.

Challenge Day

Year 10 students travelled to the University of Cambridge for a Challenge Day where they participated in lectures on Medicine



& Medical Ethics and Medieval History. They also met current undergraduates who gave them a taste of higher education. Styn Oomen, Lucy Davies, Jacob Calvo-Penfold, Alicia Upton-Jarvis, James

Hills, Olivia Reed, Jen Welsman, Ryan Hodd-Jarvis, Alison Collins and Tom Wilson all agreed that it was a thoroughly enjoyable and engaging day.

Let the music play... Rother Valley Orchestra Day

involving our family of primary schools and our KS3 musicians was a 'total blast'! Said one member of staff, "It is a really joyful day The support from our students to the younger musicians was terrific. The vibes from the parents during the performance were so good. At the end of Mambo No5, performed by Easebourne Site Orchestra one of the dad's let out a very loud "WOW!" It was a truly memorable day.



And later that same day it was great to be able to celebrate with MRC's musicians at their exclusive **Principal's Tea Party** Our talented musicians make an enormous contribution to life both inside College and out in the community. They always receive high praise following every performance - we are very proud of them all and we wish great success to those who are taking part in the forthcoming tour of the Black Forest, Germany, when they will perform at some of the most prestigious venues in the region.



free to achieve, belong and contribute



Most people who complete their secondary education in Midhurst will have heard of Gilbert Hannam who endowed the first school here in 1672. His endowment continues today and when the College leaves Town Site in September, the long association of a school with the site of his former workshops will end. The trustees of the Gilbert Hannam Education Foundation continue a long history of stewardship of this land and various endowments for the benefit of students and alumni. As joint owners of the school site with West Sussex County Council we look forward to a long association with the new College. Appointed trustees are former governors of Midhurst Grammar School, and although two trustees are members of the local governing body, the Foundation acts independently with its own objectives and governance.

Last year the Foundation successfully negotiated the sale of part of Town Site to the South Downs National Park Authority and we look forward to their close association with Midhurst and in particular with the College. The future of Capron House (south) and the remainder of Town Site will be determined over the next few months.

Trustees had a new build site tour recently, accompanied by former Head teachers Ted Hickford and Peter May, sharing memories and aspirations. Everyone was impressed by the spectacular scale of the new building, the fantastic facilities it will contain, the views of the surrounding area and the new opportunities it will bring for education and the people of Midhurst. It is with a growing sense of excitement that we await the day the Gilbert Hannam foundation stone is laid and the College officially opened.

Nick Mitchell, Chair, Gilbert Hannam Education Foundation.

Special date for everyone's diary... Sustainability Day

to be held on our Midhurst Site, **Saturday 28 April 2012 from 10am - 2pm** - promoting all things green, sustainable and local. A fun day for all the family...lots of activities catering for all... crafts, cookery demonstrations, plant sales, organic BBQ, music and so much more...including the opportunity to tour our new building...come along or get involved- **IT'S A GREAT DAY** -

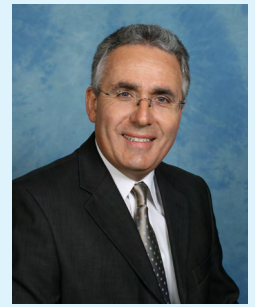
If you would like to help or run your own stall please contact Mrs Maddie Hathaway on **01730 812451**



Principal



Since opening as an academy in January 2009 the College has focused on improving examination outcomes. Exam results are not the whole story but they certainly sit at the heart of our work, especially if we want to make this an outstanding school. The table below is a mark of the progress MRC has made since the journey began. It lists the GCSE 2011 value added scores for all West Sussex schools and shows Midhurst Rother College in a position neither it nor its predecessor schools have ever occupied:



J.A. Vitagliano

Rank	School	Best 8 GCSEs Value Added Score	Rank	School	Best 8 GCSEs Value Added Score
1	Ifield Community College	1039.4	21	Downlands Community School	994.1
2	St Wilfrid's Catholic Comprehensive School	1030.5	22	Manhood Community College	993.1
3	Shoreham Academy	1026.5	23	The Littlehampton Academy	990.3
4	St Paul's Catholic College	1019.1	23	Steyning Grammar School	990.3
5	Oriel High School	1016.2	25	St Andrew's CofE High School for Boys	989.6
6	Bourne Community College	1014.3	26	Chatsmore Catholic High School	988.9
7	Millais School	1011.0	27	Holy Trinity CofE Secondary School	987.9
8	Bishop Luffa Church of England School	1007.8	28	Thomas Bennett Community College	984.9
9	Tanbridge House School	1005.1	29	Oakmeeds Community College	984.1
10	Hazelwick School	1003.0	30	Chichester High School for Boys	982.6
11	Midhurst Rother College	1002.9	31	Oathall Community College	982.1
12	Worthing High School	1002.2	32	Westergate Community School	980.8
13	Sackville School	1001.5	33	Felpham Community College	979.7
14	Weald School	1001.4	34	The Angmering School	978.1
15	Imberhorne School	999.4	35	Chichester High School for Girls	976.8
16	Durrington High School	999.1	36	The Regis School	971.9
16	The St Philip Howard Catholic High School	999.1	37	The Sir Robert Woodard Academy	962.3
18	Warden Park School	997.8	38	Newick House School	927.3
19	Davison Church of England High School for Girls	997.6	39	St Anthony's School	919.7
20	The Forest School	996.8	40	Cornfield School, Littlehampton	908.2
			41	Manor Green College	876.4

Is this the best we can do? No. Can we do even better in future? Yes. The work we are currently doing in Key Stages 3 and 4 will see us move higher still. The reason we managed to achieve such a position in 2011 was because of the developing relationship between home and school; I am confident that if we build on this relationship we will see Midhurst Rother College moving up the table even further and the reason this is so important is that it will be evidence that we are doing a better job of improving all our students' future life chances.

After half term I shall be writing to parents consulting them about a proposed new College day, one that starts later (hopefully 9am) and one that lasts longer (by an hour) on four days in the week. The 'new College day' is designed to make good the pledges we are listing in the 'MRC Experience'; I am excited about presenting the details to parents so we can listen to their responses. An early indication of the proposals will be shared with those parents who attend the MRCA meeting on the evening of the 23 February. I hope many of you are able to attend.

It only remains for me to say I hope all families have the opportunity to 're-connect' over the half term. I also encourage students to remember to do the homework and revision that will prepare them for the examinations coming up in the spring and summer. Onwards and upwards!

Principal: Dr J. A. Vitagliano
Midhurst Rother College
Midhurst Site, North Street
Midhurst, West Sussex
GU29 9DT
t 01730 812451
f 01730 813524

Midhurst Rother College
Easebourne Site, Wheelbarrow Castle
Easebourne, Midhurst
West Sussex GU29 9AG
t 01730 812371
f 01730 815090

e enquiries@mrc-academy.org w www.mrc-academy.org

UIT Registered Office: Fairline House, Nene Valley Business Park, Oundle, Peterborough PE8 4HN Registered in England No. 4439859 An exempt charity.