

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

MIDHURST ROTHER COLLEGE

This is an exciting time to join Midhurst Rother College; it is a new school situated in one of the country's most beautiful natural environments yet close to an exciting social and cultural scene.

Midhurst Rother College opened in January 2009 as a result of the reorganisation of secondary education provision in the Rother Valley by West Sussex County Council. A new mixed 11 to 19 academy, sponsored by the United Learning Trust (ULT), has replaced the predecessor schools in Midhurst, Easebourne and Petworth (Midhurst Grammar School (Years 9 to 13), and Midhurst Intermediate School and Herbert Shiner School (Years 6 to Year 8)). Through the Department of Education's *Partnerships for Schools* programme a budget of £31 million will secure a new College building in Midhurst. Demolition and building work begins in 2011 with a planned entry to the new building sometime in the autumn of 2012.

The proposals to change the age of student transfer were first brought forward by the Local Education Authority in 2002 but only came into effect in January 2009. The first Year 7 cohort entered the College in September 2010. In the period prior to entry to its new buildings, Midhurst Rother College will operate as a split site school with Key Stage 4 and 5 students based in Midhurst and Key Stage 3 students in Easebourne. The two sites are less than one mile apart.

The College sees itself as the successor to a rich tradition of secondary education that has taken place in Midhurst for over 300 years. A school was founded in Midhurst for poor boys in 1672 by a local businessman named Gilbert Hannam. Today his and other endowments allow a trust to operate in his name with extensive assets and named College prizes for students. Initially a school for just 12 pupils, the College's current roll is approximately 900 students with plans to increase the roll to a maximum of 1500.

Midhurst Rother College serves a large rural catchment area of over four hundred square miles in an area of outstanding natural beauty. (On 31 March 2010 the South Downs became Britain's newest National Park and the 10th to be designated in England.) The great majority of our students are bussed in to a school that is at the centre of the local community, with a Youth Wing and many Adult Education services provided at the College. Designation as a Science College means that extra resources are available to develop teaching and learning across the curriculum and in the wider community.

The aim of the College is to form a seven year partnership with every family that sends its children there. In return, the College will be a place where:

- Students are free to achieve, belong and contribute;
- Teachers can teach and students can learn in the very best environment;
- Extracurricular activities and taking on responsibility are an important part of everyday life;
- Parents play a central role in the education and wider College life of their children;
- Students move on successfully to higher education, further education or top quality training.

In brief, the College will foster a deep sense of belonging and encourage a high level of achievement for *all* its students. Its early days already suggest it is well on its way to achieving these objectives. In May 2010 the College had its first Ofsted inspection and the overall judgement was that the “College has made good progress towards raising standards”.

Following a staff re-structuring process, completed soon after the opening of the College, it is very fortunate to have an enthusiastic, able and highly committed staff with excellent administrative and premises support.

THE COLLEGE SPONSORS: UNITED LEARNING TRUST

Midhurst Rother College is sponsored by the United Learning Trust (ULT), a charity established to create a family of academies that provide outstanding education. It was formed in 2002 as a subsidiary of the United Church Schools Trust which has been running high-quality schools in the United Kingdom for 125 years. ULT offers the stability of an organisation with a long term commitment to education in this country and the experience of running highly successful schools. ULT is the largest single sponsor of academies in the country, responsible for a total of 17 academies. Its academies are inclusive and welcoming schools where students and staff of all faiths and none are valued and respected.

The expertise and resources of ULT are extensive and provide Midhurst Rother College with first class backing. ULT’s inclusive and open style means that its relationships with the Local Authority are excellent.

THE COLLEGE’S PARTNERSHIPS

As an academy, Midhurst Rother College is fortunate in having formal educational partnerships with the University of Chichester and Winchester College. Through these partnerships the College aims to accelerate academic progress and broaden the horizons of students and staff. The partnership with the University of Chichester is about raising students’ aspirations and encouraging progress to university whilst the partnership with Winchester College will allow staff and students at both schools to work collaboratively.

Through the College’s involvement with the University of Chichester’s Widening Participation team, students are encouraged to “aim high” and consider progression to higher education. The Widening Participation Team begins to work with the College in Year 7, through the “Star Student” scheme. This programme comprises a range of activities that involve working with University of Chichester Student Ambassadors. Further related activities take place in the College’s Personal Social Education curriculum. In Years 9 to 11 students from the College have the chance to visit the University campus and participate in ‘taster sessions’. Students also receive specialised talks and input relating to future career and educational choices.

Midhurst Rother College is also a member of the Sussex Progression and Liaison Accord (SLPA). As part of the Progression Accord, three Higher Education Institutions (University of Chichester, University of Brighton and the University of Sussex) will make certain guarantees about offers or interviews for applicants from Midhurst Rother College applying for specific subjects taught at Progression Accord institutions.

COLLEGE GOVERNANCE

Midhurst Rother College's Local Governing Body (LGB) supports the Principal in monitoring policies and operations such as:

- Admissions;
- Behaviour and discipline;
- College budget;
- Curriculum delivery;
- Working with the community.

The LGB also works to raise standards and has a special responsibility to monitor academic progress, ensuring this is reviewed regularly throughout the academic year.

The LGB consists of a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 members. As a minimum, members include the following:

- Chairman of the Local Governing Body
- The Principal
- One elected parent member
- One elected teaching staff member
- One elected non-teaching staff member
- One person appointed by the LEA
- Other such members as appointed by the Board of ULT

As an academy, Midhurst Rother College will be independent of the Local Authority but will still be subject to normal checks and inspections. The College will receive regular Ofsted inspections and will be accountable to the Local Governing Body (LGB).

MIDHURST AND THE LOCAL AREA

Midhurst is a gateway to the South Downs, an area of rolling chalk hills, towering white cliffs and grassy slopes. The Midhurst district encompasses quintessentially English villages, privately-owned country estates, open heath and common land, and a wonderful stretch of the Sussex South Downs. Midhurst is an attractive and vibrant market town steeped in history that dates back to medieval times. It is home to a thriving population and it also serves a number of rural communities. In 2002 a *Country Life* survey nominated Midhurst as the second best place in which to live in the United Kingdom. As already mentioned, on 31 March 2010 the South Downs became Britain's newest National Park and the 10th to be designated in England. Midhurst falls well within the National Park and will be one of the key gateways into it.

The town is well very situated for easy access to the south coast as well as speedy commuter links to London, Brighton, Portsmouth, Southampton and Gatwick Airport. Excellent rail links can be accessed at Haslemere, Chichester and Petersfield. Whilst some of our staff travel to work from places such as Brighton (45 minutes) and Bognor Regis (35 minutes), many live in the College's immediate area and find affordable and accessible housing within 30 minutes of the school. Midhurst is close to highly attractive places such as Chichester (20 minutes), Petworth (15 minutes), Petersfield (15 minutes) and Haslemere (15 minutes). There is also a West Sussex key worker house purchase scheme run in collaboration with a housing association. The Cowdray Estate, which has a substantial local housing stock, is also sympathetic to the need to sustain the recruitment of key workers and will actively support housing applications made through the College.

MAKING YOUR APPLICATION

We very much hope that you will want to apply for this post. Please read all the paperwork carefully before making your application – an accurately completed application is one of our criteria for short-listing candidates. Please do not hesitate to contact the College if you require any further help or guidance – we are happy to provide as much information as you need. We also welcome visits from interested candidates.

In order for you to be fully-informed about the College and the post, the following information is available to prospective candidates:

- General information for applicants
- Job description
- Person specification
- Midhurst Rother College application form
- ULT Pay diagram
- Subject area information and/or SLT structure
- Line management structure
- Curricular organisation
- College and Sixth Form prospectuses
- Examination results

Your application should consist of a completed application form and a supporting letter in which you outline how you meet the requirements of the Job Description and Person Specification. Please do **not** include a *curriculum vitae*.

The College welcomes applications from outstanding individuals who want to make a difference during a period of exciting development. The remuneration and professional development opportunities being offered by the College are amongst the best in the state sector and in consequence we look forward to appointing the highest calibre of candidate.

I look forward to receiving your application in due course.

DR J A VITAGLIANO

Principal