



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

Newsletter December 2011

Issue No 17

MRC welcome for Minister



Front - Ollie Goodale, Taylor Bush, Cora Dee - 1-r - Miss Jessop (Vice Principal), Mariana Mason, Dr Joe Vitagliano (Principal), Ella Young, Corin Kent, Mr Andrew Tyrie, Molly Allen, Fons Oomen, Lt Col Tex Pemberton (College Governor), Liam Fox (Head Boy), Mr Nick Gibb MP (Minister for Schools), Lauren Gilson (Head Girl), Mrs Pringle (Vice Principal)

Mr Nick Gibb MP, Minister for Schools, and Mr Andrew Tyrie, MP for Chichester, received a very warm welcome from Midhurst Rother College students and staff. The informal visit enabled Mr Gibb and Mr Tyrie not only to meet students and teachers in their classrooms, but also to talk to student representatives from all years at a small reception, including 6th Formers, Head Boy and Head Girl, Liam Fox and Lauren Gilson.

Said Mr Nick Gibb MP, "I enjoyed visiting Midhurst Rother College last week. The new school building and plans by Dr Vitagliano to continue raising academic standards mean that the school can be optimistic about its future." *contd/2...*

Music, music, music...



The programme of music at Midhurst Rother College this term has been phenomenal. With Carol Services raising the roofs at both Easebourne and Midhurst Churches as we go to print, our young musicians already have four highly acclaimed concerts under their belt— Rotary Music Festival, Petworth, the Winter Concert, Big Gig 6 and Tree of Hope celebration.

Said Rotarian, Mr John Barrett, "The Music Festival was wonderful and MRC's contribution much admired. I was also lucky enough to attend the Tree of Hope ceremony at Easebourne which was very moving and in no small way due to the wonderful College musicians."

We have over 90 students who participate in some, or all of our musical events and Mr Brimacombe, Head of Music and Miss Tidbury, Teacher of Music, feel they are great ambassadors for the College.

Said Mr Brimacombe, "The standard just improves year on year; we have a lot of talented musicians with genuine passion, and amazing commitment to representing College to the highest standard, alongside their fellow musicians. Both Miss Tidbury and I are very proud to be able to work with such a dedicated group of young people."

Looking forward to the New Year, Principal Dr Vitagliano has invited all our musicians for a special tea to celebrate their achievements and many will begin rehearsals in earnest for their tour in the Black Forest region in Germany. See our image gallery on Page 3

Partnership News



University
of
Chichester

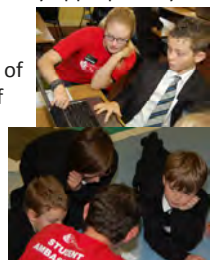


Clockwise: Margot Mason, Bethany Procter and Fons Oomen

Each Year 7 Shine

weekend visit to Winchester College, which take place several times every term, is accompanied by a member of our Senior Leadership Team. Assistant Principal, Ms Terry Kelly took our students along recently and as her first visit in this capacity was very impressed indeed. "I was not only proud of the way in which our students focused and learned in an unfamiliar environment, but also the way they responded to the excellent hospitality of Winchester College. They are excellent students and terrific ambassadors. The programme on my visit was one of science and very appropriately about different aspects of light!"

Year 7s also got the benefit of guidance from University of Chichester students when they visited Easebourne to see if we were **Up For it!** And no surprises to learn that of course we were when it came to learning about all the opportunities out there in further education! ...which our 6th Formers learned more about in their recent reality check at the University in early December *contd 2/...*



HOMWORK LIVE

It's all there ready and waiting!
See page 5...

"It doesn't matter who you are, being a natural will only get you so far. It's hard work and dedication that counts."

Charlotte Kerwood

Triple Commonwealth Games gold medallist -
Clay Pigeon Shooting

free to achieve, belong and contribute



MRC welcome for Minister contd/

Principal, Dr Joe Vitagliano was delighted that Mr Gibb and Mr Tyrie were able to spend time chatting to students who escorted them to view the construction site of their new college building. Said Dr Vitagliano, "The care, interest and commitment shown by Mr Gibb and Mr Tyrie towards Midhurst Rother College was very heartening. Their visit provided a welcome opportunity to show the progress that the College has made and its strong potential for the future".

As a local MP, Mr Andrew Tyrie has been watching the progress of the new college with great interest and was very pleased to be able to see the building works at close quarters, "It was good to see the College making such progress and to meet a number of the dedicated staff and students."

Our new build photo journey can be viewed on our website at www.mrc-academy.org

13 December 2011



7 December 2011



15 November 2011

October 2011



July 2011



Year 7s are all *booked up*



English teacher, Miss Odette Marshall, was very pleased with the response to the **Booked Up** scheme in which students were able to sign up to choose one out of a list of twelve book titles and then receive a copy of that book absolutely FREE! This picture was taken the day they received their books. The students have committed to writing a review of their chosen 'read', the three best of which will receive a token prize.

Back l-r—Alice Reed, Fons Oomen, Kacper Pawlak, Harry Tollworthy, Charlie Robins, Shannon Roberts, Olivia Lane Front l-r Guy Conners, Tom Light, Oliver Francis, Ayesha Arran, Keavy Price

No hoodies please - Uniform reminder

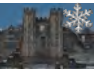
Appearance matters at Midhurst Rother College - we feel that a student who makes sure they are smart in their dress means they are smart in their thought and are prepared to be smart and focused in their day to day learning and behaviour. We are receiving an increasing number of good reports from our community telling us that our students, whether seen walking through the streets or waiting at bus stops, are a credit to College in the way they look and behave - something of which we are all proud.

However, one of the fashion garments, that periodically makes an appearance is the '**hoody**'. We just want to remind all parents and students that '**hoodies**' should not be worn to College and if seen will be confiscated. All students are expected to wear a plain dark winter coat/jacket when needed to keep out the winter chill. (A weather proof jacket can be obtained through our College supplier, Stevensons, at a reasonable cost.)

A reminder also that, other than for PE, formal shoes should be worn by both girls and boys. Boots are not part of our uniform except in the most severe weather, in which case they should be changed immediately on entering College, into shoes. Our black, V-neck sweater which carries our name is now available from the suppliers, Stevensons—the plain black sweater should be worn no longer. **Our uniform supplier, Stevensons can be contacted on: -**

Website: <http://www.stevensons.co.uk/> Sales Tel: 01727 853262





Music, music, music...contd/...



Big Gig 6



Easebourne Carol Service 2011



Orchestra

Thank you to Father Marcus Ronchetti and Reverend Derek Welsman for their wonderful Carol services which this year were as moving and entertaining as ever!



6th Formers on the way to their Carol Service at Midhurst Church



Lauren Gilson and Liam Fox (Head Girl and Boy) addressing the KS4/5 Carol Service at Midhurst Church

6th Formers get supermarket surprise! contd/...

In early December, reports 6th form Pastoral Leader, Mrs Jayne Beesley, colleague, Mrs Ali Simac, and I took Year 12 students to Chichester University, to learn more about what life will be like for them as a university student.. They were able to grill Chichester Student Ambassadors, about how they made the decision to take their current pathways and how satisfied they were with their choices. The challenges of managing finances was a major focus too, with students taking the **supermarket shopping challenge**, pricing up basic foods they will need to purchase as a poor student! I think the final tally came as quite a shock to some! Following a lovely lunch in the dining room we explored the UCAS website together which will be an important reference point over the coming months as all our students look forward to moving onto the next phase in their education.



Well done to cross country students!



Congratulations to Year 12 Lucy Challen who with the Chichester Girls football team have got through to the next round of the under 18s National Tournament and will play West Ham in their next game.

The event is for year 8-13, and any schools in the West Sussex West area. They race in age groups such as junior (y8+9) and intermediate (y10+11). The top 3 athletes in each race place 1st, 2nd and 3rd and then the top 3 runners in each category score as a team. The distances vary through the age groups and for girls and boys.

The results are as followed:

- Chloe Dowdell – 19th
- Jasmin Cain – 37th
- Sophie Parry-Williams – 47th
- Emily Hillier – 54th

Their team came 10th out of 12.

- Elliott Taylor – 12th
- Nathan Phillips – 17th
- Joe Taylor – 28th
- Jeremy Jones – 33rd
- Connor Reid – 58th
- Jordan Dear – 70th

Their team came 3rd and 13th out of 18.



Congratulations to Year 11 Rugby Team for their triumphant win over St Andrews School in late November. Final score was 17–0 in MRC's favour!

MRC's Year 9 Boys Rugby Team have also been highly successful this term with many wins. In late November, the team pictured below beat Bishop Luffa School 19–12 in atrocious conditions of wind and rain.

Well done to all!



MRC students have championships in sight

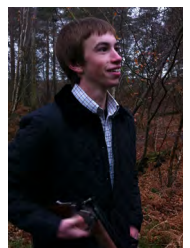


Clockwise from bottom left: Mr Darron Carver instructing Max Etheridge and Alex Cox (top), Alex Wilson and Mr Simon Vergette instructing Ebony McKay

The planned clay pigeon shoot announced in our last edition, arranged by Mr Darron Carver of Apsley Sporting, took place on a chilly, Sunday in early December. Twenty eight MRC students attended, all with an eye on becoming a team member bound for The British Schools Clay Pigeon Shooting Championships in April. Parents and staff were also able to take part. Following a carefully structured safety talk, under the guidance of Mr Carver everyone was able. Ebony McKay from year 11 and a total novice said of the morning "It

was exciting and really interesting. The first set of shooting we did the clay's went away from us, which was difficult for beginners. In the second set the clays came towards us which was a lot easier as there was a specific spot that if you timed it right the clay would be smashed. I smashed three out of 6 in the first round and was very pleased that I improved on the second, with 6 out of 10."

Mr Carver was very impressed by the MRC group in several respects, "It was a great morning; the students behaved impeccably, which is very important in our environment and we were certainly a party to talent. Particularly rewarding were those who started off very nervous, but ended not only confident, but also skilful. It was also interesting that the students outshot the adults!" *Many thanks to Mr Darron Carver and his team from everyone at Midhurst Rother College who is involved with this project.*



Steve Carter



Further training sessions and team selection will take place after Christmas and one of the students who will definitely continue with the clay shoot project is Year 8 student and a Scout Movement's National Rifle Squad member, Danny Ellyatt-Child. Although a very different sport in many ways, Danny clearly has a sharp eye perfect for this kind of sport. Following his enormous success at the Scout movement's National Rifle Championship at Bisley, in October, coming 6th out of 300, he was spotted by Assistant County Commissioner (Shooting) John Dohoo. Dan will now attend regular training weekends in Bisley and the National Indoor Shooting range in Wolverhampton as well as training evenings in Hampshire where he has received coaching from Commonwealth Games contender Chris Lacey and Bob Thornby. Mr Thornby also coaches our para-olympian team at Stoke Mandeville. No surprised that he hopes to be a member of the Midhurst Rother College Clay pigeon shooting team at the Championships in April.



Our online homework system **Homework Live** is up and running, with **all** homework now being uploaded to the service. **Homework Live** is accessible via the Homework tab on Moodle's front page, or direct at <http://www.schoolplannerbook.com/midhurst> If you have any queries regarding accessing homework please contact Mrs Gillian Welsman at gillian.welsman@mrc-academy.org Keep your eyes open during the Spring term for the **Homework Live phone app**— more information to follow in future Newsletters.

Good morning Midhurst Rother College!

Researching into the benefits of having breakfast each day Year 8 Scientists found that many students didn't have anything to eat before they left home. Of course many cited not having time as they left in a rush, but everyone agreed with Oska when he pointed out how easy it was to pick up a piece of fruit, a healthy muesli bar and maybe a box of juice at the same time as coat and bag. Hollie, however, was the envy of everyone as she, more often than not she was able to have a fruit smoothie and a piece of toast, with Barnaby happy to fry himself a sausage or two to make sure he was in good form for his lessons.

Although not rocket science students, other than those in this Year 8 Science group, of course, may not realise the importance of breakfast. Here are a few points for us all to remember about the most important meal of the day...

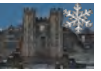
- It kick starts the day with essential fuels to keep the body going
- Improves focus; keeps the brain working long into the day and stops sleepiness
- Helps maintain a healthy and fit body weight and shape
- Keeps the temperaments on an even keep – there is nothing grumpier than an empty tummy!
- Prevents the temptation to pick at unhealthy snacks

In short eating breakfast is an important part of powering-up your body for the day. Eating a balanced breakfast helps keep us all alert, improves mood and reduces mid-morning food cravings. Year 8 Science Students have discovered that **breakfast is brilliant!**



Well done to Callum Burtoo, Oska Bryant, Barnaby Scott, Connor Fagg, Oliver Goodale, Chelsea Lazenby, Aimee Wallis, Jessica Jones, Tiffany Underdowns, Hollie Dent, Sophie Hills and Aiden Boddy

Principal



S.A. Vitagliano

As we come to the end of 2011 Midhurst Rother College finds itself in an excellent position for the future. A number of things give us confidence at this time:

- For the first time since opening, expressions of interest for a place at MRC in Year 7 have shot up – over 200 parents have named the College as a choice for their child and we look forward to welcoming a strong Year 7 group in September 2012. Our popularity as a school is extending beyond the Rother Valley and students are travelling to us from many distances and directions.
- In our quest to improve examination outcomes our Year 11 group is well on its way to comfortably exceeding last summer's record examination results – 66% of these students have already obtained an A*-C in English with another two terms remaining for every student to achieve this outcome as well. In Mathematics Year 11 are also well on track to improve on last summer's results, with over 70 of them ready to take a 'linear' examination on their return in January. We look forward to many students having their GCSE Maths by March of 2012. Overall, we are working very well towards our ambition of 70% of students gaining 5+ GCSE A*-C including English & Mathematics. Three years after opening our plans are far more 'go-getting' than when we opened – we are determined not to stand still.
- After Christmas we plan to consult parents about our proposed later start and also our 'Extended College Day' (for introduction in September 2012) – this has always been a goal since starting as an academy in 2009 and we look forward to sharing with parents the proposals we have. The final hurdle will be agreement from West Sussex County Council in terms of facilitating the timing of buses to coincide with our proposed later start and our longer day.
- The College is also on its way to embedding what we are calling the 'MRC Experience' – a series of ten pledges we are making to students in terms of what they can expect to take place *beyond* their lessons:
 - regularly attend an after-College activity;
 - represent the College at a sporting, cultural or academic event;
 - take part in an outdoor activity;
 - attend a national sporting or cultural event, or a performance at a major venue;
 - take part in a major College production or event;
 - take part in a formal presentation to an audience using ICT/multimedia;
 - lead on a significant event, presentation or activity;
 - be actively involved in an international experience;
 - be actively involved in some form of community or fund-raising experience;
 - contribute to the development sustainability or international development.
- These ten opportunities will complement what goes on in the classroom and the proposed extended day will provide a springboard for students to get involved in these fantastic extra-curricular experiences.

We are also excited by the much greater involvement of parents in the life of the College. The MRCA meeting which took place on the 3 November was a great success and parents relished the greater opportunity to have a say in the life and future direction of the College. The next step will be on the evening of Thursday 23 February 2012 at 6.30pm when the second newly constituted MRCA meeting takes place – we look forward to welcoming even more parents than we did last time!

MRC's motto is that students should be **free to achieve, belong and contribute**. We are working hard to make good on this commitment and these developments are a major part of delivering what we know parents want for their children.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year and I look forward to welcoming back students after the holidays on Wednesday 4 January 2012. The future is very exciting!

Inspiring Science



Year 9 students (left to right—Joe Casebow, Keaton Smout and Sarah Kane) were happy to be on hand with their expertise when Rother Valley Primary pupils visited our labs to learn more about the magic of science. Said Mrs Maddie Hathaway, Community Partnership Coordinator of our gifted and talented programme, "Through their own enthusiasm for the subject, our students step into the role of mentor so easily. It's great to be able to step back and watch the confidence with which they guide the primary pupils through the tests and experiments."



Ali Meyrick is our life skills coach at MRC. Ali has worked for many years in the school environment providing extra support to those who feel they may have lost direction. She says "The students and staff are really fortunate with the pastoral care provided at MRC. It is wonderful to work in an environment that is so forward thinking in accepting that students need to feel balanced

emotionally to gain the best academically and perhaps need someone totally impartial to talk to."

Students can ask their pastoral leader to make an appointment or drop in to see Ali who is based in Rother House or send an email to Ali.Meyrick@mrc-academy.org. Any parents or carers who do not wish their child to make use of this service should inform the relevant Pastoral Leader.

Well done !

...to students who represented Midhurst Rother College at the Rotary Public Speaking event:-

Sam Marsh, Adam Carter, Evan Potts, Lucy West, Dawn West, Zoe Valentine, Ben Kennedy-Holmes, Tarya Burgess and Naomi Chick - all agreed—a new and nerve wracking experience, but one they wish to repeat!

...to Young Chef contenders who will go through to the next round of the Rotary Club Competition in the New year



...to students who supported Children in Need 2011 own clothes and dress up day at Midhurst Rother College, along with a sale of delicious cupcakes generated a cheque for over £678 and Midhurst Nursery pupils visiting both the College and the Balfour Beatty construction team on Friday collected £100 for their Pudsey cookies.



Mr Jonathan Nerval, Project Manager for Balfour Beatty on the College new build programme with Joseph Wills and Finley Marshall from Midhurst Nursery



3 January 2012 Holiday Break

3 InSeT DAY

4 Students return to College

6 Principal's Surgery 2.30-4.30pm

10 Y11 Internal Examination Series - to 30.1.12

11 Y9 Options Evening

11 & 12 Y6 Star Student at Chichester University

Sat 14 Y7 SHINE Programme at Winchester College

18 Y9 Careers Day

18 Y11-13 Group & Friendship Photos—Sports Hall— 9am

Sat 21 Y7 SHINE Programme at Winchester College

23 MRC Local Governing Body Meeting - Easebourne Site

26 MRC Experience Day: Orchestra

26 Principal's Tea for Musicians - 3pm-4.30pm – Easebourne Drama Hall

27 Y11 Internal Exam Results Day

31 Primary Lab Experience Day 3

February

1 Y6 Star Student at MRC Midhurst

6 Y10 Higher Education Day - University of Chichester

7 Safer Internet Day

7 Y5 'Inspiring Science' Day 2

9 Yrs11,12&13 Parents' & Carers' Consultation Evening

10 Last day of term

13-17 Half Term

21 Y8 Parents & Carers' Consultation Evening—Easebourne

21 Safe Drive Stay Alive—All of Y12

22 Y8 students to University of Chichester - Multi Mini Taster Day

23 MRCA Forum Meeting for Parents

Sat 25 Y7 SHINE Programme at Winchester College

27 Y10 Internal Exams

March

1 Year 6 Graduation Ceremony joint with University of Chichester—MRC Sports Hall 6.30—8.00pm

2 Principal's Surgery 2.30-4.30pm

7 Y5 G&T English Day—Crime Writing

7 Y8 Enterprise Day

13 KS3 Science Week Shows

13 Language Evening (TBC)

14 Y6 MRC Experience Science Day (shows)

14 6th form Pre UCAS workshop & MRC

15 GILBERT HANNAM DAY/Evening

16 InSeT

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

ZUMBATHONMIDHURST FOR MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

is being held on **SATURDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2012** 1pm to 4pm

in Midhurst Rother College Sports Hall

Registration Fee is £5 Minimum Sponsorship is £10

Do as little or as much as you want!

For more details of how to get involved email

zumbathonmidhurst@hotmail.co.uk

MRC are sponsoring this event by donating use of the Sports Hall and adjoining facilities.

For more details about Midhurst Rother College events view our website calendar —www.mrc-academy.org

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