



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

Leaders in the making



Top l-r: Jonny Mitchell, Sam Chatwood, Zac Edwards, Jack Banting, Tom Merritt-Smith, Paddy King, Dean Bicknell, Tyler Small, Abi Chard, Sian Budd, Rob Hiller **Bottom l-right:** Ross Edgington, Ryan Davies, Henry Crofts, Harry Humphrey, Liam Andrews, Ed Clee, Archie Challen, Alex Hooker, Curtis Duncton, Joe Pink, Gabi Fisher, Lucie Challen.

Year 10 and 11 sports enthusiasts have been working hard to translate their specific interests and energies into a valuable qualification which will contribute enormously to their curriculum vitae from both sporting and leadership perspectives. Twenty three students recently attained their Level 1 Award in Sports Leadership, taken as an option within PE. [contd/4](#)

Scientists at Salters

In April two Year 8 scientists and one from Year 7 were invited to take part in Salters' Festival of Science Competition at Guildford University. Joe Casebow, James Hills and Jen Welsman took part in two sessions, one involving forensic science and another natural dyes. Says Jen, "Although we didn't win a prize we had great fun, particularly experimenting with food to make dyes and it was great to meet other students from different schools and colleges."



Joe Casebow, Jen Welsman and James Hills

Planning for our future



Opportunities to 'think tank' and feedback about the new Midhurst Rother College building plans are being welcomed by staff, students, parents and our local community. This image shows one of the mood boards with moveable elements enabling everyone to look at different possibilities. A number of students willingly gave their time on 1 April, a College InSeT day, to take part in the building forum, [contd/2](#)

Newsletter MAY 2010

Issue No 8

Partnership News



University
of
Chichester

In April 2010, 14 Year 10 Aspire students travelled to Winchester College to take part in Saturday School tuition in preparation for their upcoming maths modular exam in statistics. Winchester College Dons, Miss M Copin and Mr S Finigan, delivered sessions to MRC students on sampling, box and whisker plots and how to answer examination questions. Biology Don, Mr A Land, also joined the group to deliver a session on statistics in Biology, demonstrating how maths is vital across a range of subjects and the different ways it is utilised. All students thoroughly enjoyed the morning and the opportunity to experience learning in a different context.

Our Year 10 Maths experts have also received an invitation from Chichester University to take part in a Creative Maths Day later this term –*more in our next issue*

Miss Jen Weeks, Assistant Principal and Mr Keith Pusey from Winchester College are in talks on how to extend Saturday School experiences to Key Stage 3 students in the Autumn Term 2010.

Oliver rehearsals under way [contd/2...](#)

When a student criticised his teacher for 'old fashioned' insistence on punctuation, the teacher claimed that punctuation was vital as it can completely change the meaning of a sentence. As the student argued the teacher wrote on the blackboard, "The student said the teacher was wrong."

Underneath he wrote, "The student," said the teacher, "was wrong."

free to achieve, belong and contribute

Students getting their foot in the door



contd/1 gathering ideas and views for both the interior and exterior environment and lay out. Funding of £31million has been approved by the Partnership for Schools, with Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd selected as preferred contractor for design and build, and land assembly agreed in principle with third parties.

The planned programme is:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Design development: | March 2010-June 2010 |
| • Planning application submitted: | 1 July 2010 |
| • Final Business Case: | November 2010 |
| • Contract Award: | November 2010 |
| • New junction constructed: | Autumn 2010 |
| • Main construction: | January 2011-Summer 2012 |
| • Move into new building: | Summer Holiday 2012 |
| • Demolition and external works: | September 2012-Spring 2013 |



MRC Students having their say on the day....Toby Merritt-Smith (Y7), Elizabeth Campion (Y7), George Stringer (Y9), Cory Pilcher (Y8), Jen Welsman (Y8), Rosie Hodgson (Y13)

The planning application will go before the WSCC Planning Committee on 1 July 2010. The whole of the College community is looking forward to the construction of a new building which will have the best teaching spaces, the latest apparatus and up-to-the-minute technology. All these elements and more mean that the College can make a very strong commitment to developing a vibrant learning environment which will have a positive impact on student progress and academic success. When the new building is complete Midhurst Rother College will be one of the best designed and equipped schools in the country and the superb facilities will not only serve our students but it is intended that they will also provide an invaluable resource for the local community.

There will be a public exhibition on the planning submission on Tuesday, 13 July 2010, 3.30-6.30pm at Memorial Hall, Midhurst - All visitors are welcome.



As rehearsals hot up for our summer drama production, **Oliver**, we now have publicity in mind to draw crowds from far and wide. Copyright being our enemy, but needing something striking and effective, who was the production team going to turn to with one day's notice - on a Friday at that? Archie Challen (Y10), pictured left, stepped up to the mark and went that extra mile

over his weekend to produce this stunning image which we will now use on our posters and tickets. *Well done and thank you, Archie!*

The cast is being taken from year groups throughout College and director and drama teacher, Miss Anneka Read and Musical Director, Mr Richard Brimacombe are looking forward to this exciting and very ambitious production taking shape.

Hablamos en Espanol



MRC Students—Toby Ash, Mark Thomas, Cameron Hull, Ollie Pearce, Chloe Blackwood, Molly Edwards, Rebecca Hill, Caroline Miller and Helen Taylor



A group of **Year 10** students recently delivered a Spanish language taster session to one of our Rother Valley family of Primary Schools, Rogate. Our students really rose to the quite daunting challenge of presenting themselves to such a young group of people and in another language! The students worked across the year groups, from Years 3 to 6. Split into two teams, they planned, prepared and delivered lessons based on the themes of learning numbers 1-10 and describing the face. New word and phrase activities included bingo, funny face plates and outdoor games. At the end of our visit we were pleased to present individual certificates to every member of the group for their amazing achievements in Spanish in such a short space of time.

Earlier in the term **Years 7 and 8** presented a **Languages Evening** at the Easebourne site to an audience some 90 strong. This was an opportunity for students to demonstrate their language skills through drama, role plays, sketches, music, poetry and dance. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening when students showed how confident they were at speaking and performing in front of an audience in a foreign language. Well done to those who took part.

Habitat, Harrods, Heals lighting? Or Y11 D&T Portfolio?



Y 11 Lighting Designs: Top l-r *George Hill, Alex Hale, Jake Marriner, Jamie Dunston Sam James, Ryan Kitchener*—Bottom l-r *James Young, Mollie Hoare, Nicholas Moore, Alfie Smith*

Students in Year 11 have excelled in their GCSE coursework this year producing pieces which wouldn't be out of place in any high street window display. Along with Year 13s, they have been working hard to manufacture creative and innovative designed lighting products and functional education equipment for Plaistow and Kirdford Primary school. These products along with work from students in Art, Textiles and Food Technology, Photography will be on display in Capron House from 9.30am to 12.30pm on Friday 11 June. *Please come along and support us.*



Invitation design elements - *Still Life – Rosie Hodgson (Y 13) Bear – Abbie Gray (Y 11) Textiles – Charlotte Webster-Salter (Y 10) Kissing Couple – Tom Challen (Y 13) Hand and Ball light – Sam Hollands (Y 11) Photography – Jasmine Poole (Y 12) – Layout design by Mr Scott Atkinson, Leader of Art, Design & Technology*



Jake Francois and Ivan Gutowski-Smith (Y13) with their football goalie frame for Plaistow and Kirdford Primary School along with the resources chest created by Liam Boniface (Y 13) and Ivan's amazing remote control aeroplane

Success in the sunshine for eco day



In collaboration with Midhurst Chamber of Commerce and WSCC, we hosted our free, family event, **Keep it Local Eco Sustainability Day**, in perfect sunshine. Local agencies and businesses who have an interest in green issues displayed their wares and services while offering advice on how we can all be more environmentally friendly in every day life. Delicious, local organic food was cooked to order by Richline Farms and local crafts people such as Phoenix Wood Arts and spinning, knitting and weaving experts, Knick Knaks, demonstrated their skills. Families participated in eco activities organised by MRC students and staff, Rother Valley District Guides and Camelsdale First School pupils. Pond dipping was particularly popular. Re-cycling workshops included newspaper plant pots, garden windsocks, decorations and carrier bags. MRC Community Partnership Co-Ordinator, Mrs Maddie Hathaway, said, "Once again we are delighted. Interest and participation in the event grows every year and we are already planning and looking forward to the next one!"

Leather on willow...



We have had two county cup games recently for Years 8 and 9. They played a strong Felpham team with some impressive bowling performances by *Fraser Coombes* and *Sam Cain* they managed to keep their total down to 98. Unfortunately the team didn't manage to knock the runs off but some brave batting from *Jordan Warren* and *Dan Eeles* got us close.

The game between MRC and Angmering was nail-biting and came down to the final over. In the end we lost by 8 runs but a man of the match performance by *Fraser Coombes* who scored 35 runs and also bowled 4 very tight overs was extremely encouraging. Well done to all the boys who worked very hard indeed.

Top l-r Jordan Warren, Jordan Bates, Jack Mepham, Tom Wilson, Hallam Potts, Fraser Coombes
Bottom l-r Sam Cain, Harry Pink, Josh Hegarty, Dan Eeles

Our beautiful game...

Year 10 had a good season. They got through to the 3rd round of the County Cup narrowly losing to Bishop Luffa School. The area league saw the team finish 3rd overall with some great individual performances from *Ollie Pearce* and *Alex Hooker*. The team also came 4th in the area 7 a side tournament. The boys are looking forward to Year 11 when they are determined to build on what has been a good year of improvement for the team.

Holding the County Cup was sadly not to be for Year 11 team, but they did put up some really good performances. The season began with a game against Winchester College which gave them the opportunity to come up against some very good players. Says Mr Richard Bentley, Assistant Subject Leader:PE, "The boys played fantastically well only narrowly losing. Some notable top performers this year were *Jake Stone* and *Josh Clack*. Well done to the boys for a good year."



Year 11 Team at Winchester College—
Top l-r Jack Austin, Luke Baigent, Tom Gumbrell, Josh Clack,
Matt Weller, Nick Moore, Adam Knight, Ryan Kitchener—
Bottom l-r Chris West, Willow Arran, Sam O'Leary,
Rueben Lee, Jamie Dunstan, Jake Stone

Over the moon...



Jed Largan (Y7) was 'over the moon' to have been selected as Gunners' mascot for their Premier League match against Tottenham Hotspur in April at White Hart Lane. Said Jed, "I can't believe I was chosen. There are thousands of Junior Gunners and it's a dream come true to be the Club's mascot. I had such a great time and it was awesome to meet all my favourite players". He not only walked out with the team and met his heroes, but also got a full complement of autographs and a brand new Arsenal kit.

Goalie Manuel Almunia, with whom Jed is pictured, said: "It was great to meet Jed at White Hart Lane for the game against Tottenham Hotspur. We all hope that he had a great day out and enjoyed all the action".

Leaders in the making

contd/1... The course is worth half a GCSE and involves the study of health and safety, planning and delivery of sports sessions and how to become an effective leader. Their final assessment took place at Easebourne Primary School where each student was assessed supervising 10 pupils in a range of activities. Other elements for this elite group are community hours spent at local primary schools running clubs and mini sports festivals.

A question of sport...



After schools clubs—summer schedule can now be found on our website—Parents and Students—Clubs
www.mrc-academy.org/upload/files/clubs_summer_term_2010.pdf

Principal

Despite the political uncertainty of the last few weeks Midhurst Rother College remains focused on its job of making sure students are *free to achieve, belong and contribute*. In real terms this means three very straightforward objectives for the College:

Achieve:

Each student to exceed their academic potential so that College attainment moves into the top quartile (top 25% nationally of all similar schools) in each key stage.

Belong:

Students to display pride in the College whilst conducting themselves in ways which show they respect their peers, all adults they come into contact with and members of the wider community.

Contribute:

Every member of the College to be doing something over and above what is required of them to make a positive difference for the immediate community or the one that lies beyond it. Regardless of whatever happens as a result of the proposed cuts in government spending Midhurst Rother College will remain focused on these three areas so that it secures the objectives it has set itself. The aim is to make Midhurst Rother College the school of parental choice both within and beyond the Rother Valley. An indicator of how well we are progressing towards this ambitious target is shown in two recent set of examination results.

Our *Year 9s* have received their first set of module results for GCSE Science. 50 students have been accelerated through the traditional Key Stage 3 Science programme. (They started their GCSE Science course in September 2009.) Mr Neville and Dr Ibrahim have been teaching the AQA Physics P1a module (one of six these students will need for GCSE Core Science). I am delighted to report that of this group of students, 50% achieved A*- A (nine achieving A* and 16 grade A) and 98% achieved A*-C. This puts down an important marker for what our most able students can achieve at Midhurst Rother College. My congratulations go both to the students, and Mr Neville and Dr Ibrahim for this exciting development. We are still in the early days of the College but this shows the potential we have to transform the learning and outcomes of our students.

The second area of great promise has been the early results obtained by Year 11 students in their GCSE equivalent ICT course. These results show that 83% of students entered for Unit 1 of the course achieved an A*-C GCSE equivalent. We are very optimistic that when all the units are finally taken by Year 11 students these results will be maintained if not improved. We still recognise we have more to do, however our rate of improvement is heartening and shows we are starting to lay the foundation stones that will make our ambitions attainable. Whatever the outcome of the political changes we are going through and regardless of how school budgets might be affected, the College is progressing well.

Finally, I promised that I would keep parents informed about the proposed plan to change the College day. As I indicated in the April newsletter we want to move the College's start time from 8.15am to 8.45am (and end at 3.10pm instead of 2.50pm as we currently do). Our reasons for this proposed change are very clear:

- We believe we will get improved student outcomes and higher attainment by having a later start to the College day. Current research shows very clearly that young people learn best by being allowed to start their school day later;
- A later end to the College day will also mean that we have fewer students left to their own devices because there will be a better chance of parents and carers being at home to receive their children and make sure they get down to the routine of homework;
- We also believe the later start time is far more 'student friendly'. Many of our students are standing at bus stops at 7am in the morning – in the winter months this is dangerous and puts them at risk;
- We also feel the proposed change is more 'family friendly' – parents and carers who have children at primary school can more easily combine the 'College run' with the responsibility they have to their younger children.

I have had many, many conversations with students and parents about this idea and every time I have been greeted with approval for trying to make it happen. However, West Sussex County Council has recently informed me of the likely cost of the change we want to make (which would have to be paid for by the College from its own budget). We have been told it will be in the region of £53,000 to £67,000. This news was deeply disappointing - we cannot afford these costs. Having said this, we are not giving up on our plan and will be doing our utmost to get a cost neutral solution that will allow the College to better serve its largely rural community. This is not the end of the road!

I hope all our families have a restful bank holiday weekend break, however after this I also hope that our examination students get down to the business of study. My advice to all the students who are taking examinations this summer is to work hard at revision. It is amazing how much that little bit of extra work on the eve of examinations can make all the difference. We will work with students every step of the way and we remain available to them and their families should there be any questions or help needed.



S. H. Vitagliano

Behaviour for Learning and Living

Since opening in January 2009, a great deal of work has been undertaken to raise the behaviour expectations within Midhurst Rother College and over the last two terms, further work has been carried out on developing the rewards process. For further information please contact [Mr P Thompson, Director of Learning - Behaviour for Learning and Living](mailto:paul.thompson@mrc-academy.org) - paul.thompson@mrc-academy.org

Congratulations...



...to Science Teacher, Mr Mike Neville who *did* break the record as the world's fastest running vegetable in a marathon when he ran the 26 miles (and 385yds!) of the London Marathon in 3hours 9minutes in a carrot costume - the previous record was 3hours 34 minutes. He is seen here being presented with the funds raised by MRC students and staff for Water Aid, by our student record breaker, *Adelle Tracey* (Y11).



Adelle holds several U15, U17 and indeed U20 records for running 800 and 600 metres. You can spot her in the image below with Dame Kelly Holmes when she was recently invited to join the country's young, elite athletes at the Aviva Future Stars camp (picture below) for a mentoring, advice and training course at Loughborough University.



...to *Keiran Rhodes Wort* (Y12) who has won Player of the Year for Stedham Football club

...to *Alex King* (Y10) who came first in the Intermediate Section of the MBK Leisures Open Fishing Match at Rake in April

...to *Jack Clark* (Y13) who has completed a volunteers training week with Dame Ellen MacArthur aboard her yacht

...to *Rosie Hodgson* (Y13) and her band, Fire Up Mary, who have reached the Regional Final of Live and Unsigned on 30 May at Portsmouth Guildhall. It's the 3rd round - the last one before the O2! They would love some support—for more information visit www.fireupmary.co.uk

...to Y9 Mountbatten Sports successes, *Mat Trembecki* - 3rd in shot, *Ryan Poste* - 4th in shot, *Liam Kitchener* - 4th in discus, *Alex Gilson* - 5th in high jump

...to *Miss Fay Cripps*, Teacher of PSHEE and Citizenship, who having just returned to running after time off with an injury, came third in the women's section of the Trundle Hill (Goodwood) 10k challenge

Good Luck...

...to Year 9 athletes *Lou Simac* and *Olivia Russell* who will represent West Sussex at the Sussex Athletic Championship on 12 June

...to *MRC Cheerleaders* who have been booked to perform at Lavant Village Summer Fete on 19 June - pictures in next issue!



The Missing Piece rehearsing for Big Gig - Yr 8s Sam Cain, Styn Oomen, Rory Pilcher & Ben Clarke

Our Calendar

More details of events will be provided nearer the time—or can be found on our website www.mrc-academy.org

31-4 June College closed for Half Term Break

JUNE

- 7 College re-opens
- 9 Y10 Trip to Imperial War Museum
- 10-11 Summer Art Exhibition - Capron House
- 15 Year 10 Life Skills Day
- 16 Yrs 7 & 8 Mountbatten Area Athletics
- 18 Big Gig - Memorial Hall – 7-9pm
- 22 Y5 G&T, Humanities College Day
- 23 MRCA Meeting - 6.45pm
- 24 Y10 Maths visit to Goodwood Races
- 25 Induction for Y11s moving into Y12
- 25 Y13 Dinner Dance
- 25-28 Y9 residential trip to Paris
- 28 MRC Local Governing Body Meeting
- 28-2 July National School Sports Week
- 29 Y5 G&T Science Day
- 30 Y12 Futures Day/UCAS
- 30 GCSE/GCE A Level Exams end

JULY

- 1 Y5 Rother Valley Primary Students - MRC Experience Day
- 1 Y11 Prom
- 2 Y10—D&T, Science & Maths - Festival of Speed
- 5 InSeT Day
- 6 Y5 G&T, Art, Design and Technology College Day
- 6 Yrs 7-10 Awards Evening
- 7 Secondary Transfer Day and Evening - Y6 students visit Easebourne Site
- 7 Y9 Students spend day at Midhurst Site
- 8 Sports Day - Midhurst Site
- 12 Y9 move to Midhurst Site
- 12-16 Yrs 10 & 12 Work Experience
- 12-16 Activities week
- 13 MRC New Building Planning Exhibition – Memorial Hall - 3.30-6.30pm
- 23 College closes for Summer Break—12.30pm

AUGUST

- 19 GCE A Level Results Day
- 24 GCSE Results Day

SEPTEMBER

- 1-2 InSeT Days
- 3 Return to College - Yr 7 Students only - Easebourne Site
- 3 Sixth Form to attend registration and induction
- 6 College re-opens to all students
- 8 Yellow Photography—Individual Photographs - Midhurst – Yrs 10,11,12 & 13
- 9 Yellow Photography—Individual Photographs - Easebourne—Yrs 7,8 & 9
- 20 MRC Local Governing Body Meeting

OCTOBER

- 20 InSeT Day
- 25-29 Half Term Break

NOVEMBER

- 22 MRC Local Governing Body Meeting

DECEMBER

- 17 College close for Winter Break

Summer 2010 Exams
to view a full timetable see our website

Mrs Carolyn Lee, Director of AEN, is available on Friday afternoons to discuss any concerns parents/carers may have about their son/daughter's special educational needs. **Please contact her via the schools website if you would like to arrange an appointment.**

Absence Telephone Line - On some occasions the old number is being used— please note the new number: **01730 812451** - Thank you.

Principal: Dr J. A. Vitagliano

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