



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

Gilbert Hannam Prize Giving Day



Top: David Anderson (Chair of Governors), Guest Speaker, Jonathan Church (Artistic Director, Chichester Festival Theatre), Charlie Chatwood (Head Boy), Sophie Lane (Head Girl), Dr Joe Vitagliano (Principal) **Right:** Charlie Clee and Luke Henley (Blood Brothers duologue) **Below left:** Guest Speaker, The Reverend Mark Sowerby, Bishop of Horsham, modelling his gift of gloves received in our traditional ceremony **Centre:** 6th Form Church Ushers, Hayley O'Leary, Lucy Coombes, Charlie Clee, Rhiannon Burgess and Jess Quinnell-Spencer

Thursday 18 March was an important day for Midhurst Rother College. It celebrated Gilbert Hannam establishing the first 'Free School of Midhurst'. In his Principal's speech, at the evening prize giving, Dr Joe Vitagliano spoke of the many excellent student achievements there had been over the previous year and he also paid tribute to the hard work of all those responsible for making these successes a reality. He was confident that the project of making Midhurst Rother College the best school in West Sussex was on track and going very well.

Following a day packed with student awards, music, drama and prestigious guest speakers (The Right Reverend Mark Sowerby, The Bishop of Horsham, in the morning and Jonathan Church, Artistic Director, Chichester Festival Theatre in the evening), Simon Knight, High Sheriff of West Sussex, described the event as "...uplifting, I can see the very good work that everyone is doing in making Midhurst Rother College a school that everyone can be proud of in the Rother Valley."

contd/3...

Success for our Scientists at Swindon

A team of **Year 8** students travelled to Swindon Academy to compete against other schools in the inaugural ULT/UCST Science Challenge. Swindon has recently opened its new building and the MRC students were blown away by the look and feel of its wonderful design. After an inspiring presentation by Dr Maggie, a well known space scientist, the students set about the serious business of building instruments through which they could mimic alien noises.

contd/2...



Winning team Front: Olivia Russell, Lucy Davis, Tom Wilson, Alicia Upton-Jarvis Back: Styn Oomen, Mr Neville and Ben Clarke

Newsletter APRIL 2010

Issue No 7

Partnership News



University of Chichester



When members of our **Year 10 Aspire** Group asked their **Chichester University** ambassador, Phil, to lie down so they could draw round him, facilitator, Lesley-Ann Holder, realised that it was going to be no ordinary student visit "This was the most creative and vibrant group we have hosted since I took on the role two years ago. They are clearly hot on the heels of our current University students!"

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Twenty students from **Years 7 to 10** took part in a triathlon orientation day at **Winchester College**. The event was organised to introduce MRC students to one of the fastest growing, but most physically demanding sports, away from the pressures of a competitive race, with a post Easter plan to enter the Chichester and West Sussex Schools triathlon. Students completed the swim leg (ranging from 200 -400m depending on age group). It was then out of the pool and onto the bike for a 3k cycle.



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Newsletter to be paper free!

contd/2...

"I believe that students should have respect for adults, society, each other, and most of all, themselves." said Mr Paul Thompson, (MRC Director of Learning: Behaviour for Learning & Living) referring to the presence of the Behaviour Policy on our website, "And, in the words of Dolly Parton, I only trouble trouble if trouble troubles me!"

free to achieve, belong and contribute



Student leaders elected

Following weeks of hot canvassing and grilling from students and staff, culminating in a final vote across the College, 6th Formers, Sophie Lane and Charlie Chatwood have been appointed Head Girl and Head Boy 2010/2011. Sophie's education began at Midhurst Primary School. Now studying English, Biology, Textiles and Religion and Philosophy she has represented the College in sport and as a keen dancer, works locally with two dance schools, while studying ballet and modern dance privately. Her ambitions lie in reaching University and a career in the world of dance, art and drama.

Charlie has also enjoyed a Rother Valley education, starting life at Petworth Primary and Duncton Schools. He is now taking Photography, Business Studies and ICT at A Level. His aim is to attend University and make his career in photography. *Sophie and Charlie hit the ground running—within days of being appointed they found themselves speaking publicly both in Church and at the evening ceremony on Gilbert Hannam Day!*

In a departure from tradition, deputies have been elected. Popular choices of Lucy Coombes and Charlie Clee have been announced - pictures and profiles in our next issue.



Success for our scientists at Swindon

contd 1/... Said Mr Mike Neville, Teacher of Science, "Our team was amazing and thrived under the pressure. When they were announced as well-deserved winners, the judges were greeted with shrieks of excitement from the MRC students. The presentation they gave to a tough panel of judges oozed confidence and strong scientific knowledge. We will be the first name to go on the very impressive trophy, I hope we can return

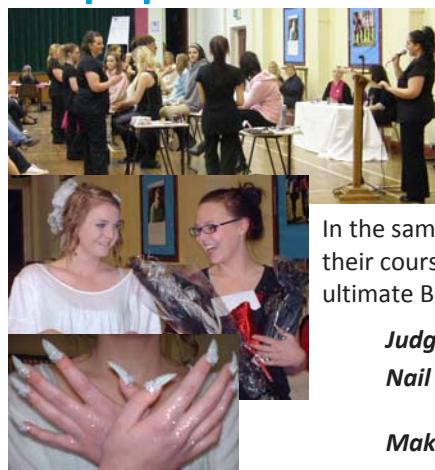
Hot on their heels...



*Contd 1/...*The confidence, competencies, thought processes and application of our Year 10 Aspire group really impressed the facilitators and student ambassadors when they recently visited 'Chi Uni'. The event was designed to introduce the group to the environment, to give them a chance to ask questions about life in higher education and learn about all the opportunities which could be theirs. "The hosts were clearly taken aback by our students' ability to focus and deliver on all the tasks assigned, while working as a close knit, fun team and integrating comfortably with those already studying on campus," said Miss Gilly Hartley who accompanied the group with Mrs Ali Simac. "They all agreed that the pictorial profiles they produced following questions put to the ambassadors were the most creative ever seen, with the norm being straightforward lists of words."

(Chi Uni Ambassadors Rob, Phil, Rich, Sarah and Kirsty - pictured left with their MRC student produced personal profiles)

Top prizes for *Ice Maiden* and *Bond Girl*



Following the enormous success of MRC's recent Make-up and Nail Art Competition, the event is set to be a regular on the College calendar. A standing room only audience of students, friends and family watched as thirty two Year 11 students competed with one another over 45 minutes, producing freestyle, themed nail art creations, with Daisy Hofgartner's Ice Maiden coming out on top.

In the same time span, eleven Year 13 Beauty Therapy students applied their course notes on Fashion & Photographic make-up to produce the ultimate Bond girl make up which was won by Beth Edwards.

Judges were:

Nail Art: Subject Leader of Art – Mrs Jeanette Sutton and Assistant Subject Leader of Beauty Therapy – Mrs Rachel Smith

Make-up: Local Salon Managers of Esthetica and Ambassadors, Kerry Lintott and Rachel Haines respectively



Winners – Nail Art Make-up

1st Daisy Hofgartner (pictured left with her 'Ice Maiden') 2nd Sharni Przepiorka 3rd Mel Johnson

1st Beth Edwards (pictured right with her 'Bond Girl') 2nd Laurene Wilshire 3rd Sophie Homewood

Performing in a competition with judges, audiences, hairstylists, models and costumes is part of the criteria in both courses.



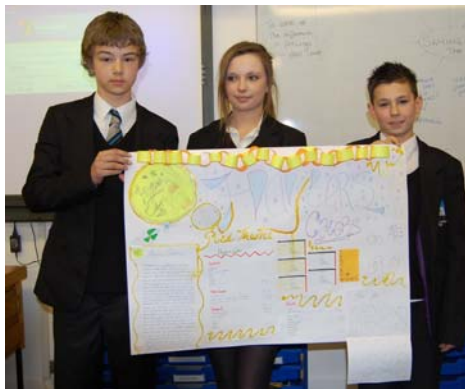
A buzz about biz !

River Site at Midhurst Rother College buzzed on Year 10 Business and Enterprise Day. Facilitated by Clare Evans, West Sussex Education Business Partnership, and organised by MRC's Mrs Sue Vincent, Careers Co-Ordinator, the task in hand was to create a business plan aimed at success in the music industry. Supported throughout, and later judged by local business executives*, along with Mrs Sue Secombe, Connexions and MRC Governor, Dr Harold Carter*, all participants rose to the challenge. The imaginatively branded **Bajama** were the victors, with **Uber Vinyl** and **HCCD's** worthy runners up. Dr Harold Carter commented "This was a very impressive group of students. **Bajama**, was especially convincing. I have run many courses like this for graduate MBA students, usually experienced managers; these students would give them a good run for their money! I hope we get lots of them applying to Oxford a few years from now - we want bright and motivated students like these!"

* Business Executives: Stefan Hager (**HSBC**), Barney Hall (**Clear Computing**), Caroline Lear (**Wiley**), Jools Chaffer (**Dizzy**) - Dr Harold Carter is a College Governor, a former corporate strategy consultant to some of Europe's largest companies, and now an academic at Oxford University



Bajama Creative Team: Joshua Edwards, Alex Hooker, Archie Challen, Rebekah Mugeridge, Molly Puttock, Millie Randle



Winners: Harry Griffiths, Amelia Weston, Charlie Hayter for Hayter's Caters

Meanwhile, budding Year 9 entrepreneurs on Easebourne Site, with the help of the **NatWest MoneySense for Schools** team, had been given the task of organising the catering and entertainment at an event for 100 Olympic Gold Medalists. Commenting on the event, Kirsty Rouse, NatWest Branch Manager, Petworth said, "I've had a fantastic time today and am really impressed with the creativity and business acumen the young people have shown in organising something on this scale."

James Collins, MRC PSHEE Leader said, "Economic awareness is key for students and project days such as this are invaluable to their learning. All the students took part with total commitment; the winning presentations were a testament to this. I think the approach of the **MoneySense** team, which included real life examples of business, online activities and video clips, is excellent for helping to combine skills and build financial awareness."

Runners Up were Megan Cattermole, Liam Kitchener, Alex Gilson, Edan-Rae Challen with the Golden Food Company

Just Another Day in Drama



Memorial hall was packed to the rafters with audience members for the GCSE exam performances. The examiner sat, silhouetted at her desk and an atmosphere of intense anticipation filled the air, reports *Drama Teacher, Mrs Susie Wey*. The students didn't disappoint. Each group performed a devised piece with flair, confidence and total commitment and feedback from the audience on both nights was fantastic. Despite having to evacuate the audience due to a fire alarm in the middle of the first night, *Miss Read* and I were very proud of the effort all students had put in whilst rehearsing which certainly paid off on the night. Fingers crossed for some great exam results .



Left: Halfway House Tom Warren, Jack Austin, Isobel Kearsey, Mel Stockman, Kelly Lampard

Middle: Get Happy Katy Wilmhurst, Lisa Prudente, Holly Oldle, Melissa Onslow-Dewey

Right: Just Another Day Kaya Hayward, Mel Johnson, Meg Stankus, Lauren Gilson, Zara Turner, Abi Martin

Gilbert Hannam Prize Giving Day

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Our programmes for the day which include full details of all our prize winners and the history of our traditions can be found on the website in the Communications drop down.

www.mrc-academy.org

Drama students have also beentreated to a production of *Dr Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe, the text of which they are studying for exams. Written in the 16th century and telling the tale of Faustus – a man who sells his soul to the devil – this could have been a difficult performance to watch but it was far from it. Visiting theatre company 'Splendid Productions' certainly did a splendid job in updating this classic text through comedy and audience participation. 'A' level students then took part in a workshop. The theatre company director complemented all of the students involved, saying she had 'never met such a quirky, individual and totally lovely group of students'.



Splendid Productions -Dr Faustus



Personal profile - Ollie Denis



Ollie Denis, Year 9, has been playing ice hockey for nearly four years now. "I am in my fourth season at Guildford. I play for the U16's team, training twice a week – sometimes as early as 5.30am on a Sunday morning!

My position is forward and it's my job, along with two other forwards, to get the puck off the opposition, set up and score goals. Not as easy as it sounds (*doesn't sound easy at all, Ollie!* Editor) as ice hockey is a full contact sport and the opposition is just as determined as I am to get the puck. It is a fast game requiring high levels of fitness, excellent skating skills and the ability to play as part of a team.

Last summer I attended a training camp in Canada – the 'home' of ice hockey. It was a fantastic experience and I was really pleased when I won the Fastest Skater award! This year I have been selected for the U15's regional team which is made up of the top 17 players from all the clubs in the South and West of England. My ambition is to play for Great Britain and some day, when I have completed my education, (*Mum told me I should say that!*) I would also love to play in North America."

Feeling the burn....



...in Boston, USA

A fantastic trip and by far the best one I have ever taken part in! *Reports Mr Paul Thompson (Director of Learning: Behaviour for Learning and Living).* Special thanks to Tappers, Mrs Heidi (Good) Evans and Mr Rich (Gently)

Bentley for their commitment throughout the week. All the students were amazing and first class examples to themselves, their parents and the College. We all have loads of great memories of brilliant experiences and lots and lots of laughter. The skiing was excellent too! We were able to pass over half of the party with top GCSE and A Level Physical Education marks for skiing and boarding, which is not an easy thing to do! Everyone agreed that it was a trip of a life time.

...in Piancavello, Italy

The KS3 ski trip this year was a great week enjoyed by a wonderful group of students and staff. Having negotiated a twenty something hour coach journey, the blue skies and fresh snow certainly came as a welcome sight. The skiing, food and evening activities complemented the excellent spirit of the students who represented the College in the best way possible. This trip wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful coordination of Mrs Beesley who organised the trip from start to finish. The support of Ms Weeks, Mrs Simac, Mr Beal and Mr Dann completed an entertaining and committed team. Many, many thanks for your hard work. *Mr Mike Neville (Co-Ordinator of KS3/Teacher of Science reporting.*



Triathlon training at WinCol



contd 1/ Our team then jumped off the bikes to complete the 1.6k run which left many exhausted but all completed the course in style. The sun was out and it was a really enjoyable day in the beautiful surroundings of the Winchester College campus. It was also wonderful to have so many parents joining us to cheer on the team, thank you very much for your involvement. Congratulations to the following students who will hopefully be at the core of the MRC triathlon team for the next few years:- *Josh Fitcher, Torben Winther, Jed Largan, Poppy Braid, Rebecca Nicholson, Catherine Ford, Sam Marsh, Bethany Clint, Elizabeth Campion, Tom Wilson, Sam Cain, Jen Welsman, Daniel Eeles, Ben Clarke, Jack Hamilton, Caroline Miller, Tom Cain, and Olivia Winther.*

Y9 Boys Activities Day



Rugby and football round up next issue as seasons close

Feeling proud...

Thinking Day in the Girl Guide movement took on a very important meaning for two MRC students this year. Alice Parry (Yr 9) and Jen Welsman (Yr 8), pictured with Abi Welsman of Easebourne Primary School, centre, were asked to take part in the Sussex West Guide Choir to lead the singing at a special service in Westminster Abbey. Miss Juliet Robinson, MRC Teacher of Music who accompanied the group said "It was a great honour for our Guides to be asked to lead the singing at this service. The girls sang superbly well and were not only a credit to their units, but Alice and Jen were also terrific ambassadors for Midhurst Rother College." The lead song was the difficult Heather Small number, *Feel Proud.*



Principal

Midhurst Rother College continues to develop and improve. One of the key areas we have worked on is communication between College and home. When the College opened, its website was static and it lacked much of the information parents and carers needed in order to engage with their child's education. If you go to our website now you will find electronic versions of all general letters that have been sent home, in date order. From now on you should not feel out of the 'information loop' regarding what is happening in College. You no longer need to search at the bottom of your child's bag or in their blazer pockets to find out what is happening! The other significant improvement we have made is the inclusion of an interactive College calendar on the website which not only lists all important events but also hyperlinks (where appropriate) to additional information about them. As you will also know, we have increasingly used the 'Home Call' system this term to flag up forthcoming events that are vital to a students' progress. This system was used very successfully during the snow days in January and also during the recent GCSE module examinations.



J. A. Vitagliano

In the February newsletter I wrote about the issue of low attendance at College Parents and Carers' Evenings. I was very pleased to receive a number of responses to my comments and glad to say that as a result of them (and the evaluations we have conducted after each event) that one important change we will be making from September 2010 is that these important meetings will begin at 5.30pm in future and end at 8.30pm (a change from 4.00pm to 7.00pm). We believe this is a crucial way to help you get more involved in your child's education. At the same time we also recognise the need to explore *other* ideas to make you feel part of what we are trying to do at Midhurst Rother College.

Earlier in the year I spoke about wanting to change the start and end time of the College day. I am still in discussions with the West Sussex County Council Student Transport section in order to see whether we can change our start time from 8.15am to 8.45am (and end at 3.10pm instead of 2.50pm as we currently do). We are still negotiating. However, if West Sussex County Council can facilitate it on the College's terms (we are currently looking at how the additional cost of approximately £50,000 might be funded) then I shall be writing again in order to formally consult you about this proposed change. Firstly, we believe this change is much more student friendly, with recent research showing young people learn better if they can get up later in the morning. Another reason we are actively seeking this change is that it will benefit those of our students who live at the extremities of the catchment area. Standing at a bus stop just after 7am in the dark winter months is not the best way to start the school day. We also believe a later start is more family friendly, by showing us trying to support those who combine 'College runs' with primary schools 'drop-offs'. The College is fully committed to this change, however the final decision as to whether it can happen rests with West Sussex County Council and how the additional costs involved can be paid for. You will be kept fully informed about developments as they occur.

Finally, I want to re-assure parents and carers that the College has been extremely proactive in making staffing appointments that will improve the quality of teaching and learning at the College. In the transition from an 'intermediate' (Year 6 to 8) and 'upper secondary' (Year 9 to 13) structure it was inevitable that changes in staffing would occur. The College is committed to employing *full time* subject specialists who can teach in *at least* two key stages. When I began as Principal of Midhurst Rother College nearly 40% of staff had no recent GCSE or A level experience and there were 28 part-time members of staff. With new appointments (effective from September 2010 and listed below) we will be moving towards having *more* secondary school experience in our staff *and* changing the balance towards more full time teachers:

Miss Terry Kelly – Assistant Principal for Business & Enterprise (internal promotion)
 Mr Phillip Lloyd – Assistant Principal for English
 Mr Barnaby Clarke – Curriculum Leader Business Studies
 Mrs Amy Hurst -Subject Leader Drama
 Miss Fay Cripps – Teacher of Citizenship/PSHEE
 Mr Alex Smith – Teacher of English
 Miss Victoria Britton – Teacher of Mathematics

All the changes we are making at Midhurst Rother College are focused on improving the chances of our students. When we say that students should be *free to achieve, belong and contribute* we are making staffing appointments that will make this pledge a reality.

Finally, I would like to urge all students working towards GCSEs, and AS and A levels, to revise well and prepare carefully for those vitally important public examinations they will be sitting from May onwards. Every minute spent on this work will pay immense dividends. We also look forward to seeing students at the many revision and booster sessions organised during the Easter break (please see our website).

I hope you all have a marvellous Easter holiday.

Dr J. A. Vitagliano

Premises

At the end of May Half Term students and staff on the Easebourne Site will see a change in their landscape. The huts on the edge of the playing field, which have been on loan from WSCC, will disappear, leaving us with additional space for recreation. The buildings have been superfluous for some time now and we will all be pleased to regain this area outside.



Charity Week total... a MASSIVE £2005



Full picture gallery next issue...

Congratulations...

...to Year 12 student and nationally acclaimed athlete, Adelle Tracey, who temporarily shelved her running shoes to compete and win at the recent Chichester Festival for Music, Dance and Speech. She took first place in both the *Italian Aria* and *Show Song* categories for 16-17 year olds. In the first competition Adelle sang *Caro Mio Ben* (Giuseppe Giordani) and in the second, *Losing My Mind* (Stephen Sondheim – Follies) for which she was awarded the George Ayling Cup and the Gideon Shield.



...to Year 8 students, Max Etheridge, Aaron Andrews, Dan Eeles, Jed Largan and Sam Cain (pictured left) who have taken up the Chichester Corporate Road Race Challenge and as we go to press are training for Stage 3. Although Aaron has only been able to compete in one race so far, the others

have kept up the pace...[check out our press cuttings on the MRC website to track their news](#). Also...[watch this space for Jed's report following his appearance as Arsenal's mascot at The Emirates Stadium in April, selected out of a hat from other long term, junior members of their fan club](#).

...also to old boys Harry Dzenis, Dan Denis and Alistair Gibson. **Harry** will shortly represent Great Britain for the third time on his horse, Rockin' Robin. He will compete for the second year running in the Young Rider European Eventing Championship. Last year he won Gold! Following **Dan's** success in motor racing and his winning the Caterham 400 Championship last year, he now moves up to a Ginetta 50 in which he hopes to win the G50 Cup. (*He was at some pains to emphasise that this is in no way affecting his further education, studying psychology at Goldsmiths in London which he says is really cool!*). **Alistair** has been awarded the Sam Short Award for Outstanding Music Performance at South Downs College.

...to staff - Mr Hunter, Mr Cockett, Miss Kilpatrick and Miss Kelly who have achieved the **Level 1 Interactive Technologies Award**



Ryan Lewis (Year 12) and Sam Beesley (Year 9) (pictured left) trained hard to meet the challenge of the 6



mile Sport Relief Run in Chichester. Finishing in 52 and 53 minutes respectively they collected sponsorship of almost £300. And well done to Mr Gilmour (D&T Teacher/Assistant KS4 Co-ordinator) who completed the 6 miles challenge at Littlehampton in a time he is keeping to himself!

During its stay on campus the light strike frame game BATAK quickly became the zone of preference at lunchtime. With attempts at breaking Jenson Button's record of 115 hits costing 50p each, students collected £84 - 6th Former, Cameron Schmidt (above) achieved the highest score of 104.

AND FINALLY...**Good Luck** to Mr Mike Neville, (Co-Ordinator of KS3 and Teacher of Science), who is running in the London Marathon in support of **WaterAid**...dressed as a carrot. He is aiming to break the world record for a running vegetable of 3hrs 34mins.... **Yes really! His training blog can be found on Moodle—donations can be made via <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/RunningCarrot>**



Our Calendar

More details of events will follow nearer the date specified

APRIL

- 1 InSeT Day
- 2-16 College Closed for Spring Break
- 19 College re-opens
- 21 Y11 Parents and Carers' Consultation Evening
- 24 Sustainability Day
- 27 Y12 UCAS Event Sandown Park Racecourse
- 29 UK Junior Maths Challenge
- 30 Y5 Fun Maths Roadshow

MAY

- 3 Bank Holiday Monday
- 4 College closed
- 5 Yrs 9 to 13 Mountbatten Area Athletics
- 10 MRCA Meeting - 7pm
- 12 Y12 Performance Exam
- 17 GCSE/GCE A Level Exams begin
- 26 Y7 Parents and Carers' Consultation Evening
- 31-4June 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 Life Skills Day
- 16 Yrs 7 & 8 Mountbatten Area Athletics
- 18 Big Gig - Memorial Hall - 7-9pm
- 21 MRCA Meeting - 7pm
- 23 National Colleges' Olympic Day
- 25 Induction for Y11s moving into Y12
- 25 Y13 Dinner Dance
- 25-28 Y9 residential trip to Paris
- 28-2July 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
- 2-3 Sixth Form Trip - Alton Towers
- 2-6 Snowdonia Trip
- 5 InSeT Day
- 6 Y5 Art, Design and Technology College Day
- 6 Yrs 7 - 10 Awards Evening
- 7 Secondary Transfer Day—Y6 students visit Easebourne Site
- 7 Y9 Students spend day at Midhurst Site
- 8 Sports Day- Midhurst Site
- 8 Y9 move to Midhurst Site
- 12 Yrs 10 & 12 Work Experience
- 12-16 Activities week
- 19-21 'Oliver' the Musical—River Site Hall—7.30
- 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

OCTOBER

- 20 InSeT Day
- 25-29 Half Term Break

NOVEMBER

- 17 College close for Winter Break

Summer 2010 Exams - to view a full timetable see our website

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