



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

A member of United Learning Trust

Newsletter

May

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Issue No 2

Partnership News...

Dramatic Start to GCSEs



The Clowns

It was standing room only in the Memorial Hall, Midhurst Rother College when Year 11

students took to the stage for their GCSE Drama exam. "Opening night nerves were soon overcome when the examiner introduced herself," explained one student "Her purple handbag matched her hair so we knew from the start she would 'get' us!"

The audience was transfixed by the performances from 'The Clowns', a terrifying group of characters, The 'Great Expectations Dating Agency' which followed the story of Miss Havesham as she wreaked revenge on the vulnerable Estella and 'The Puppets' who provoked laughter and tears. The final piece, 'Fire Angels', was inspired by the true story of children and adolescent survivors of the Blitz. *continued on page 2*

New Heads Up for Rosie & Alex

Alex Sprinks and Rosie Hodgson are pleased with their appointments to Head Boy and Girl and are looking forward to building on the success of their predecessors Scott Ind and Chloe Oram. "They have set an amazing standard which we intend at least to keep and are definitely up for the challenge!" said Alex. Rosie is enjoying the role already, "We have started to



get involved even at this early stage and think it's great that we are going to have the opportunity to make an impact on the development of MRC." *contd on page 2*

Sounds of the Far East



All students on the Easebourne Site have been experiencing a beautiful collection of instruments; the wonderful sounds and sights of the

Javanese Gamelan. The collection was made by the Javanese people for the West Sussex Music Support Service and is available to hire. We have been the only school in West Sussex to have booked it every year since it came over to this country 10 years ago. All students have been learning about the music and how to play the instruments as well as about the traditions and rituals of the Indonesian people when performing. This collection is still quite rare in this country so for many of our pupils this is a once in a life-time experience.



University
of
Chichester

This term we were delighted to welcome **Mr Nick Wilks, Director of Music at Winchester College.** Meeting with **Miss Juliet Robinson**, Leader of Learning Music and Enrichment (Easebourne Site) and **Mr Richard Brimacombe**, Head of Music (Midhurst Site), he discussed ways in which the two schools might collaborate through workshops and student exchanges. One of the main topics was **The Elastic Band**, a particularly exciting initiative which will take place in the autumn term and involve all **Year 7** students. In Spring Term 2010 **Year 11** Music GCSE students will be participate in a workshop and recital at **Winchester College.** **Mrs Maddie Williams**, Community Partnership and Enrichment Programme Co-Ordinator will be visiting **Winchester College** in June to discuss enrichment opportunities between the two colleges. **Miss Jen Weeks**, Deputy Headteacher, has been having ongoing discussions with the University of Chichester's Deputy Dean, **Dr Mark Mason**, about collaboration between MRC and the University. Meetings have also taken place to talk about the placement of PGCE* students during our autumn term.

*Post Graduate Course in Education

Charity Week - It's a Record! *See page 2*

Midhurst Rother College - The best in everyone

Drama *contd*

The large audience clearly found the performances totally engaging throughout the evening. A high level of hard work, mutual respect and individual achievement was clearly evident. Said the Grandma of one student in a letter of congratulations,

"...I thought it was a an outstanding performance... it was all quite superlative, totally professional and I was completely captivated."

Cast: **The Clowns** - Grace Probyn, Adelle Tracey, Georgie Keeley, Abbie Humphrey and Hannah Stanton
 Cast: **Great Expectations Dating Agency** - Ellie Moulding, Hennie Hughes, Allie Temple and Hayley O'Leary
 Cast: **The Puppets** - Lucy Coombes, Amy Oram, Kelly Scutt, Nikki Tripp and Daniella Knight
 Cast: **Fire Angels** - Charlie Clee, Jasmine Poole, Lily Blank, Zoe Forrester and Vicky Paquette



Year 13 (*Blood Wedding*) and Year 12 (*The Trial* by Franz Kafka - adapted for stage by Steven Berkoff, along with several monologues and duologues) performance evenings will take place as we go to press - full reports in our next issue.

It's a record! £2,245...



Midhurst Site students and staff were bowled over by the result and very proud to be able to present the cheque to Dr Christopher Bateman, Vice President of St Wilfred's Hospice during an assembly. Diverse lunchtime activities were organised to raise funds in memory of our former Headteacher, Mr Jon Barrott.

An evening staff vs student football match kicked off proceedings with a much celebrated 6-5 win for students. Lip Sync was the first gig enabling the 6th Form students to strut their stuff miming and dancing to music by some of their favourite bands. Enthusiastic participation in *Sponge the Teacher* was inevitable, with students paying a fee to soak the 15 volunteer staff members with very cold water. The 6th Former auction and staff member displaying his amazing uni-cycling skills kept interest high until the final event, based on TV's *Blind Date*, which introduced a very special **hostess** to the limelight, **Mr Witney**. Playing to a packed and very animated audience, with a set constructed by the students themselves and a repartee to rival any reality show, the finale of Charity Week was an enormous triumph.

A special chemistry



Adam, Molly and Ebony

Soon after their arrival at the University of Southampton **MRC Year 8** students were immersed in their first task: The Salter's Challenge. They were asked to solve a murder in a forensic science exercise. "Our students were impressive," said

Leader of Learning-Science, Dr Ibrahim, "Their practical techniques were very good indeed and their team work outstanding. Their interest never waned and they were transfixed by a series of spectacular demonstrations." All students agreed it had been a great day out and returned with prizes and certificates. "The conduct of the students was exemplary," continued Dr Ibrahim, "And the hospitality of the University of Southampton wonderful. We owe them a huge expression of thanks."

New Heads Up for Rosie and Alex *contd*
 Alex attended Easebourne Primary and Midhurst Intermediate School. Following his A level studies of History, PE and Biology, Alex's aim is for university, but he has not yet decided on his specialist subject. His main leisure focus at the moment is his planned True Adventure trip this summer to the Himalyas with teachers and fellow students.

Rosie attended Rogate Primary School followed by Midhurst Intermediate School. Her A level subjects are Religion and Philosophy, English Literature and Art. Her ambitions lie in winning a place at the Brighton Institute of Modern Music to study songwriting.

Eco Day at MRC



Midhurst Rother College hosted its free, family event in perfect sun-

shine and in collaboration with *Millers Ark* Midhurst Chamber of Commerce and West Sussex Adult & Community Learning Service. The Viridor Eco Bus, WRAP and Chichester District Council were on hand with advice about how to save money by taking steps that are environmentally friendly. Organic food was cooked to order by Richline Farms and Mother Bhumi Bhajis and Pakoras. More than 40 Morsbags made by



Free handmassage by Hush Salon Student, Mel Stockman

local volunteers, many constructed at the College, were given away. Family Eco-activities were provided by MRC and Camelsdale First School pupils, including hand massages, the use of natural dyes, pot painting, pond life exploration and the reuse of newspaper by making bags, flower pots and logs. Millers Ark brought along a wonderful array of animals which captivated a large audience throughout the day. **Mrs Maddie Williams**, MRC Community Partnership Co-ordinator said, "We have been delighted with today's success. Each year it gets better and we are already looking forward to next year."

Y8s Host Orienteering Festival for Rother Valley Primaries



Thirty **Year 8** Sports Leaders took part in a School Sports Partnership Orienteering Festival at Petworth Park, supervising pupils from our family of Rother Valley Primary Schools.

Year 8 students Poppy Holden and Lucy Brodrick report.

The day was enjoyed by all in glorious sunshine.

We got to explore a huge area of the Park while looking for pictures and letters scattered across the grounds. Those who found the most were declared the winners, but all students received commemorative certificates and we sports leaders were presented with a Community Ace Note. We would like to say a big

thank you to Mrs.Kemp, Mrs.Whiteley and Mrs.Hollands for making this day happen.

Footnote from Easebourne Site Head of PE, Mrs Kemp:

“The commitment and communication skills demonstrated by both our Sports Leader hosts and the Primary School pupils was fantastic. The event was an enormous success; we were very proud of the professionalism and fun that our Year 8 students contributed to the day. They

Awards for Junior Sports Leaders

The Junior Sports Leader Award programme took place during **Year 10** PE lessons throughout the Spring Term. The training focused on the important skills needed to organise and lead younger children in sporting activities. Our students spent time looking at various teaching methods and organised a PE lesson.

The final assessment took place at Midhurst Primary School with Year 4 pupils. Said PE Instructor, Mr Bentley, “The students were magnificent and a credit to themselves and Midhurst Rother College. All 28 students passed the course with flying colours! “



Nail biting victory for MRC cricket team

The recent **Under 13** cricket fixture against a very good Mayville team was nail biting to the

end. Having won the toss, MRC opened the bowling starting strongly with three

wickets in the first two overs. Although Mayville recovered well, MRC kept up the pressure to hold their score at 54 for 5. MRC’s opening partnership of **Cowell and Hamilton** got us off to a flier and although the loss of wickets slowed the run rate, with sensible batting we managed to scramble the last runs with 2 balls to spare. “The final over was so

tense that Mr Collins aged in front of our very eyes!” said Captain, **Jack Hamilton**, “It was a great game of cricket with a very dramatic end. I do hope all our games are so exciting.”

Well done to all our players.

MCC for MRC Student

Megan Sampson, **Year 11** recently played for an MCC side against Sussex Schools. A slow to medium, right hand bowler and lower middle order batsman, Megan started playing in 2004 for Midhurst. She went on to represent Sussex at Under 15 level throughout 2007 and played in the development squad last winter. Her best performance so far is 3 for 12 against Berkshire. She is currently a regular with Brighton and Hove.



Anyone for tennis?

The **Under 13 tennis team** played in the first leg of their West Sussex league at Our Lady of Sion School, Worthing, reports Mr Collins. Their opponents were extremely talented and although MRC worked very hard, they couldn’t manage to overcome Sion’s level of play. Well done to **Sam, Alex, Jack** and **Charlie** for showing sportsmanship and maturity in the way they played.



Easebourne Site is running several extra curricular activities this term . If anyone is interested please see Mr Collins. These are fun clubs in which new skills can be learned and match play developed.

Tuesday: Athletics, KS3 Cricket **Thursday: Rounders, Y6 Cricket, Tennis**
Friday: Gymnastics

Sports Day coup...

Olympian and World Champion Sprinter, Jamie Baulch, will open our Easebourne Site Sports Day on Thursday 16 July. Said Easebourne Site Head of PE, Mrs Kemp, "He didn't hesitate when asked; we're thrilled. His record on the track is amazingly inspirational for all of us and the fact that he was trained by Linford Christie and is now in the hands of Innocent Egbunike means he has so much *street cred*. This is not to mention the fact that Jamie is also a TV personality, starring in BBC Superstars and A Question of Sport. It's going to make what is always a fantastic event into something spectacular."

Teams *net* praise for steady progress

Spring Term saw **Year 7** and **8** girls competing in a local secondary school netball league. "Both teams have shown real progress in their personal performances and team results," said SSCO, Mrs Whiteley, "Their final place in the rankings is yet unknown, but they are strong teams. In a tournament held in March **Year 7** just missed the semi finals following a tough draw."

"**Year 8** did earn a place in the semi finals where they met tough competition. After a good performance they finished joint 3rd which was an excellent result. Thank you to all the students who took part, particularly for their dedication over some very long nights of play and to parents and carers for their unfailing support and, of course, transport!"



Year 7



Year 8

Great *trys* all round...



The **Year 6** tag rugby team played their first match of the season against St Margaret's, Midhurst. Our boys worked extremely hard and played some very good, fast flowing rugby against an experienced side, *reports Mr Collins*. The team won, 17-14. Special praise must go to **Taylor Bush** and **Keir Robinson** for outstanding performances.

The match against Chichester High School for Boys was a good warm up for our **Years 7/8** Squad's bid to make the Sussex County finals. The 34-19 victory impressed Easebourne Site Head of PE, Mrs Kemp, "They worked really well together and played some outstanding rugby." Captain: **Kieran Harrington** Man of the Match: **Callum Thorpe** Try scorers: **Sam, Jordan, George, Kieran (2) and Matt**.

The squad also competed in a Rugby 7s tournament this season. **Year 8** missed out on the final by a couple of points, but **Year 7** travelled to Worthing RFC to play in the Sussex County Finals; the first time the school has ever qualified. Although games were lost and the final placing 5th overall, the team played really well, field

ing Player of the Tournament, **Fraser Coombes** who scored an amazing try during the match against Warden Park. The team returned home cold, wet and tired, but really pleased with themselves at having made the final!

*In the same match MRC student **Jordan Morgan** was spotted and invited to trial for Harlequins Rugby Academy in September - watch this space!*

While **Cameron Schmidt, Year 11**, continued to carry the family flag playing 'hooker' for the Sussex Under 16s this season and gaining a trial for the under 18s, brother and ex-pupil, Warrick, has just received a special award at South Downs College for his outstanding sporting achievements. This was in recognition of work on and off the field of rugby. He is currently Captain of the College team and plays for Petersfield RC and for Hampshire.

STOP PRESS... brother **Guy, Year 13**, whose specialist sport is swimming has reached national competition level...*more in our next issue.*



Years 7 and 8



Adelle Tracey

Year 11 came 4th in the English School Cross Country Championships after warding off illness and injury. She is continuing her training at a high level alongside her school studies and has been targeted for 2012 London Olympics...*another space to watch!*



Rob Desport

Year 11 has been playing for Portsmouth FC, but has left to consider several other options. He has had trials with Stoke FC, Bristol City, West Brom, Swansea and Swindon and has been given unconditional places with all.

We're looking forward to an update.

Principal



Enchantment at Easebourne

The drama Hagbane's Doom took place just before half term playing to parents and the public, with one special performance for fellow students from Rother Valley Primaries. The musical is about three children who stumble across an enchanted forest beleaguered by an evil old crone, Hagbane. Together with the forest folk and Prince Oswain they battle to bring freedom to all those caught in her shadow. The audiences were held spellbound to the very end. Over 100 pupils took part as actors, singers, dancers, musicians and crew. The majority of costumes were made from scratch by our especially formed *Costume Department*.

We are now into the second term of Midhurst Rother College's existence. At present we are going through the staff re-structuring process. This means a new group of Vice and Assistant Principals (in addition to Mrs Denne and myself) will have been appointed by the time you read this newsletter. This is a very exciting time for the College as it begins to establish its new identity.

The College's aim is to become the outstanding school we know it can be. Along with appointing a new leadership team we are continuing the work towards establishing what the new College buildings will look like. The big changes from our current site arrangements are *one* building for all our students (rather than the three that are scattered between Midhurst and Easebourne); buses dropping off and picking up students from the school site (*not* the Midhurst bus station); and all our playing fields and grounds enclosed within a *single* area. In addition to this we keep our marvellous Sports Hall on the Midhurst site. As information emerges about our building plans we will tell you more.

We have now entered a critical period of the academic year. On the Easebourne site students have been taking their Key Stage 2 tests whilst at Midhurst GCSEs,

AS and A2 levels have also begun. The College recognises this is a difficult time for students and their families, however we are here to help and support and will do our best to make sure everything is done to get the very best results. Please do not hesitate to contact us about anything you feel we can do for you.

Finally, whilst it has been a very busy time in school I have still made time to visit a number of the Rother Valley Family of schools. Visiting primaries has been wonderful. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm of teachers and students together with their excitement about learning. In addition, I have also been speaking in the evenings at Parish Council meetings throughout the Rother Valley, explaining what is new about the College, what it has replaced and the plans that we have for the future. When attending these meetings it has been reassuring to be greeted by many parents and students who have come along to listen to what I have to say. There is a good spirit in the area and a real passion for seeing the College succeed.

I hope you have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend.



J.A. Vitagliano

All a matter of science



James and Sam attempt to identify unknown chemicals

Four **Year 10** students travelled to Kingston University recently to compete in the final of The Royal Society of Chemistry Competition. The team had qualified in the South East area preliminary round beating 36 schools from across the region. They

earned a place to battle it out with 3 other

schools, Reigate Grammar School, Caterham and Bishop Tenison's, Croydon. The 4 tasks set were highly demanding. The team was challenged to identify unknown samples, memorise data on the elements and complete a multiple choice quiz to test their all round chemical knowledge. The team from MRC did us proud. They narrowly missed out on victory by just 2 points. A really big well done to the team of **Sam, James, Andrew and Lauren**.

Report by Mr Neville, Science KS3 Co-ordinator

Chi Vibes for children

Chichester District Youth Council is run by junior members of our community. Easebourne Site **Year 7** students, **Dan, James, Will** and I represent the Midhurst area. On 27th April at Chichester Assembly Rooms we discussed forthcoming events, particularly a music festival called '*Chi Vibes*' and a specialist sports day which will be held in

summer at MRC, introducing pupils to a wide variety of sports and the Council's initiative to get young people more active and live a healthier lifestyle. *Report by Jennifer Welsman, 7I*



Midhurst Rother College Association

(the group replacing MGSA and MISA) is made up of parents who are able to offer support and ideas focused on the development and future well being of our College. The role of the Association is very important to the fabric of College life, is crucial to effective internal and external communications and of course to fund raising initiatives. It also provides an ideal opportunity for everyone to socialise.

The first **MRCA Summer Fair** will take place on **Thursday 9th July** between **6 and 8pm**. All MRC parents, students and staff will be very welcome for what will be a fun and enjoyable evening. The money raised from this event will be used to buy extra equipment not provided from school funds (for example, lunchtime and after school club equipment and activities). The evening will include competitions and raffles. Donations of prizes would be much appreciated. Please leave them at either of our Town Site or Easebourne Receptions.

If there are any parents who are interested in joining MRCA or helping at social functions and events, please contact the Secretary, Mrs Janet Redfern - flynn@nredfern.fsnet.co.uk

Keeping Easebourne tidy!



Students lead the Eco Council and help carry out audits to assess the environmental performance of our school. It is very important that all students and teachers participate, and through consultation with the rest of the school and the wider community, the Council decides what is necessary to make environmental improvements. This is especially important now with the planning of new school buildings and for the protection of existing wildlife areas, gardens and ponds. A major part of this initiative is taking care of local streets, hedge-rows and verges.



Eco Council volunteer to pick up litter in the area—4 bags of rubbish were collected—some of it wasn't at all pleasant!

Congratulations!

...The following students have passed ASDAN Wider Key Skills 'working with others': **Chloe Holmes, Tasmin Slade, Matthew Jordan, Toby Lane, Nadine Vallance, Amanda Witcomb, Paige Bartlett, Harry Burnett, Shaun Stockman, Craig Vincent, Ashley Turner, Georgia Turner, Lee Jones, Tom Wall-Palmer**—Route 4

Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network - ASDAN rewards learners' success in a range of skills and settings from Entry Level to University Entrance

... **6th Former, Jack Clark** who took part in the round Britain voyage with Dame Ellen MacArthur in aid of her Trust which supports young people in recovery from cancer and leukaemia.

... **Jess Warren, Year 13**, A grade 'A' Level student last year was successful in her audition at Chichester Festival Youth Theatre for a lead role in 'The Heights' by Lisa McGee to be performed on 6 July at the National Theatre, London, as part of their New Connections Programme -12 playwrights were commissioned to write pieces for young people on the theme 'forging new friendships'.

... **Tom Warren, Year 10** - has been granted his Cadetship in the Air Training Corps. In training recently he took the controls of a trainer 'plane' to fly a loop-the-loop. Fellow students and College staff were relieved to learn that this was over the Wiltshire countryside not Midhurst!

... **Emily Temple**, Science AST, on her Blackpool Marathon run - Time: 4hours 36 minutes 15 seconds—She has collected some £1,000 for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

... **Ben Carter, Year 12** for his election to West Sussex Youth Parliament.

HouseKeeping

Swine Flu - The state of emergency has, at the time of writing, fallen away, but we would like to reassure everyone that a school policy is in place. In line with Government guidelines, school will be kept open if at all possible. We will only close if deemed absolutely necessary by the Principal and, in line with normal emergency closure procedures, parents will be informed via our **website** and **local radio**. In the meantime, we would urge everyone to follow Government advice on hygiene in order to avoid catching and spreading infection. If your child falls ill with flu-like symptoms, please keep them at home and if you are worried, please contact **NHS Direct (0845 4647)** for advice.

Work Experience - Mrs Vincent, Co-ordinator, would like to remind **Year 10** that the deadline is **Monday 1 June**.

Hush Salon is open on Wednesday midday-2.50pm/Friday 9am-2.50pm for Level 2 treatments

Please ring for more details **01730 819760**

Our Calendar

22 June College closes for half-term break—Y13 Leavers' Lunch

1 College re-opens

1 Deadline for Y10 Work Experience Programme

3 Year 10 History—Imperial War Museum - First World War artifact handling

3-4 Y6 British Museum Trip

4 Y8 Begin French Exchange to Nogent Le Routrou

10 Y7 Enquiry & Sustainability Day

11 InSeT - College Closed

12 MRC Noise Ensemble Theatre Trip from Easebourne Site

13 Y8 Return French Exchange from Nogent Le Routrou

16 Mountbatten Area Athletics - KS2

17 Mountbatten Area Athletics - KS3

17 Y6-8 Additional Parents' Consultation Evening 5-7pm

19 Y13 Dinner/Dance at Cowdray Golf Club

20 MRC African Music Group at Easebourne Church Fete

22 Y8 Exams

23-25 Y9 QCA exams

26-29 Y9 Trip to Paris

26 Y11 Prom, Lythe Hill Hotel, Haslemere

26 Y8 Blood Brothers theatre trip

29-30 Activities Week - Easebourne site (29 June-3 July)

30 Y12 Futures Day

July

1 Summer Concert - Midhurst site

2 Sports Day - Midhurst Site (**please note date change**)

1-3 Activities Week - Easebourne site

3-7 Snowdonia Trip

6 InSeT - College Closed

8 Year 7 Joint Able Pupil Music Morning at Rydon College

9 MRCA Summer Fair Evening (River Site Hall)

11 Years 11 & 13 Himalaya Trip

12 Years 6, 7 & 8 Early Music (Medieval & Renaissance) Music Group performing at Weald and Downland Museum

13-17 Y9 Activities week, Y10 and Y12 Work experience

15 Summer Concert - Easebourne site

16 Sports Day - Easebourne site

16 Years 6, 7 & 8 Presentation Evening (River Site Hall)

17 Reserve Sports Day - Easebourne site

17 End of year levels, KS2 results, NFER, SWST, Y6 & Y8 reports

20 Years 9 & 10 Commendation Evening (River Site Hall)

22 College closes for the summer at 12.20pm

August 12-21st - No Mean Feet Summer School—fun and informative, - lots of outdoor activities, including a trip to The Science Museum, London. Aimed at Year 7-9 students who have an aptitude for Science, Geography and Maths—for more information telephone Mrs Williams on 01730 819751

September

3-4 InSeT Days—College Closed

7 Students back to College

Local Governing Body Elections

The elections are currently in process to elect one parent governor and one teacher governor. In view of there being two nominees* for the parent governor vacancy a ballot is taking place with the count at **noon on 21st May**, as we go to press. As there were four nominations from teachers for one teacher governor vacancy a ballot is taking place.

We are happy to announce the successful nomination of **Mrs Angela Thornley** as the Support Staff Governor, uncontended.

*Philip Norman and Philip Stringer

Principal: Dr J. A. Vitagliano

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