



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

18 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to take this opportunity to say how impressed I have been with the hard work and the positive attitude to learning displayed by the vast majority of students this term. As you know, we frequently visit classrooms and I am pleased to say that lessons have been extremely productive and students have taken the opportunity to reflect and build upon their knowledge. The standard of behaviour, conduct and uniform is also extremely good and I am grateful for your continued support in this area. I have incorporated a brief paragraph from David Lawes, Chair of the Local Governing Body finance committee in this letter.

This has been a particularly busy half-term outside of the classroom; it is important that we focus on providing opportunities to enrich the traditional curriculum for your child and this is something we will continue to do. Over the last eight weeks, we had a residential visit to San Francisco, a day visit to Rolls Royce, 'Safe Drive, Stay Alive' for Year 12, several University trips and a STEM science trip. Internally, all students attended our careers fair, we entered the Rotary Young Chef, held a Winter Concert and hosted several events for primary schools students. We also supported events both locally and nationally, including Children in Need, Armistice, local carol services and our fireworks evening.

It is our intention that our College is at the heart of the local community. The MRCA fireworks evening, which was attended by over 2000 people, was a huge success; we will repeat this event next year and are already reviewing how we can make it bigger and better. In addition to this, the parents association are planning a summer event for people from Midhurst and the surrounding area. More information will be made available to you after the break, but I am excited by the planning I have already seen. Finally, the Local Governing Body has agreed with my proposal that we reduce the cost of our lettings in the College building from January. In many cases, we have decreased these by up to 40% and I encourage parents / carers to review our updated lettings costs.

Students in all year groups have completed assessments this term. I am optimistic about the current Year 11 and 13 internal results, both of which show significant improvements on the excellent results students achieved at the same point last year; your children deserve huge credit for their progress. I am grateful to our Year 12 and 13 students who are fantastic role models for students lower down the College and who lead our very successful charity work – we have already raised well over £3500 this year. I would like to make parents aware that we have changed our options process for the current Year 8, as we have decided to move to a three-year Key Stage 3 for most subjects. Students will still make some subject choices this year, but these will be within certain subject areas only. Mr Burton will provide you with more information on this in the New Year.

This half term the Local Governing Body has continued their link roles with members of the senior leadership team. Finance continues to be an important subject and members of the Local Governing Body provide support to the Principal with the financial management of the College budget, through meetings which take place at least once per term. Governors have an overview of the yearly and

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monthly management accounts, however a lot of our work involves reviewing future funding for the next financial year and also for the next five years. Funding continues to evolve from the Government, United Learning and WSCC, both in what we receive and how, but the recurring theme is we are managing budgetary pressures on a flat income.

We have received our initial numbers for Year 7 next year. The College is increasingly popular; we have received our highest number of applications to the College for next year, with over 440 families expressing a preference for us. It is pleasing that increasing numbers of students want to come to us and we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 in the summer term. We are always looking for ways to improve our communication with parents and I would encourage all parents to follow us on Twitter @MRC_1st to receive up to date information on our College. In addition, you will notice that the weekly 'Principal's blog' is also tweeted and emailed to parents every week. The audience for this is primarily the students and it is part of the tutor programme every week. The blog is informal and seeks to reinforce our values, which are also part of our tutor programme and every assembly.

I am immensely proud to lead the College and it is a privilege to work with your children. We know that we do not get everything right – no one does, but there is a genuine drive from the students and staff at the College to make sure we constantly improve. Our students chose our values of 'respect, happiness and achievement' in December of 2016. We do our very best to live by these values and they underpin the culture in the College. We will maintain our focus on high standards, high expectations, a 'no barriers' approach and celebration of students individual and collective successes. It is only through doing this consistently that we will help your child to reach their full potential.

Some dates for your diary:

Thursday 3 and
Friday 4 January Inset Day
Wednesday 16 January Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday 24 January Year 11 Revision Preparation Evening
Friday 25 January Inset Day

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful Christmas break.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards
Principal