



# Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

5 April 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to you at the end of another busy term. There is a lot to update you on from events both in and out of College over the last few weeks. The College is increasingly popular and we have our highest number of applications to join Year 7 in September 2019; we have 240 current Year 6 students who will join our community and we look forward to welcoming them.

We continue to visit lessons every day and I am pleased with the work your children are producing; we can see real progress being made in classes and also over time in exercise books and assessments. The students' behaviour and conduct in College is also very good and our students are polite, helpful and respectful towards each other. We have been reminding students in assemblies and tutor time of the importance of manners and greeting each other in corridors; it is good to see students doing this on a daily basis. Over the last six weeks, staff have been communicating with home when the students have been working hard, have shown respect or have simply done the right thing; it is good to reinforce positive behaviour, work and attitudes and we will continue to do more of this.

In my last letter to you, I mentioned that the College is working to achieve a 'Wellbeing in School' award and we are well on the way to do this. We have a team of staff working on this and it will be a main topic for our student council after the holiday. Part of this process involves us asking parents / carers as well as students to give us feedback on what we do and how we can seek to improve. I would ask that as many parents / carers as possible take part in this as this will help us to improve. Maintaining student wellbeing is a key priority for us and I would like to remind you of the Drug Awareness Day we are running on 25 April as part of our PSCE programme. There will be a presentation to parents in the evening, which will be informative and I hope many of you will attend. In addition to this, we will also train one ambassador in every tutor group to be an 'Anti-Bullying Leader' in May. They will then form a team to help and support one another.

Wearing college uniform is very important, as is making sure it is worn correctly. Our students look incredibly smart and this is a way of showing that they are proud to represent the College. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents / carers that we do not permit students to wear hoodies or non-uniform jumpers to College, as they are not part of our uniform. Students are welcome to wear coats or our college jumper, which is available from Stevensons. A small minority of students have been wearing hoodies to College; please can I ask that students only wear our college jumper or a coat to College if it is needed. Thank you.

You will probably be aware that school finance and funding has been in the local and national press over the last few months. The school funding issue does present very real challenges to us at Midhurst Rother College and we have seen our budget reduce over the last few years and it is forecast to be more difficult in the future. It is our drive to make sure that the school funding issues do not affect the quality of your child's education.

Over the Easter holiday, we will return to our 'Get Ahead, Stay Ahead' programme and students will be asked to complete work in range of subjects in return for a Golden Ticket. These tickets will then be used as part of a prize draw. We have posted work and a revision schedule home to parents of Year 11

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students to provide a structure for them to revise during the break. We know that holidays are a time to relax and see friends, but it is particularly important that students use this holiday to revise as well as relax and take time for themselves.

One area I would like to see the College develop is two-way communication with parents. I encourage all parent to follow us on Twitter @MRC\_1<sup>st</sup>, through following us you will receive short messages about life in College, as well as reminders about events. The Principal's blog has now been replaced with the 'College Blog' and is written by me once per fortnight, with the other week being written by students or other staff members. The College also has a Parents' Association and these meetings discuss 'live' issues that affect your children in College. I encourage all parents to attend these evenings, as this provides a good way for us to communicate with and listen to you. The MRC Parents' Association do a fantastic job of raising money for the College; they are currently planning an open air cinema on 12 July and are showing Bohemian Rhapsody. Tickets for this event are available from the College, The Upholsterer or online through our website.

In December 2016, our current Year 9 to 13 students spent some time working together to plan what they wanted for their College. Our values or *Respect, Happiness and Achievement* came from this process and we uphold these in assemblies, tutor times and daily interactions with each other. I am aware that the current Year 7 and 8 did not take part in this process and they will be given the opportunity to review the language around our values shortly after the Easter holiday. I look forward to working with them on this.

I am very proud to lead the College and believe it is a real privilege to work with your children. They are a constant source of energy and optimism. We tell the students in assemblies that we know we all make mistakes, but we all strive to do our very best every day and to constantly improve.

Dates for your diary:

Tuesday 23 April ..... College reopens for the Summer term  
Thursday 25 April ..... Drug Awareness Day  
Saturday 27 April ..... MRC Community Day  
Wednesday 1 May ..... Year 8 and Year 9 HPV vaccinations  
Monday 6 May ..... Bank Holiday  
Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May ..... Half Term  
Wednesday 12 June ..... Awards Evening  
Wednesday 26 June ..... Year 7 Big Bang Fair South East  
Wednesday 26 June ..... Year 11 Prom  
Thursday 27 June ..... KS5 Options Evening for Year 10  
Thursday 4 July ..... Year 10 and Year 12 Parents' Evening (invitation only)  
Thursday 4 July ..... Year 13 Prom  
Monday 8 July to Friday 12 July ..... Activities Week  
Friday 12 July ..... Bohemian Rhapsody, Outdoor Movie Night  
Monday 8 July to Friday 12 July ..... Year 10 and Year 12 Work Experience  
Tuesday 16 July ..... Year 7 Parents' Evening  
Friday 19 July ..... College Closes for the Summer Break

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

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards  
Principal