



# Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

4 June 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to you at the start of the last half-term of the year. This academic year has gone by very quickly and last half-term was the shortest of the year, at only 23 school days. There is still much to update you on from last half-term, as well as making you aware of school activities and events over the coming weeks.

You will be aware that GCSE and A-Level examinations are now fully underway. Our students are working hard and I continue to wish them the very best of luck with the exams. There are only two weeks of GCSEs left now and it is important that all students keep pushing themselves right until the end of the very last exam -then the long summer break can start for them! They also have the end of year prom to look forward to on 26 June at Old Thorns; the year 13 prom will take place on 4 July at Cowdray Golf Club.

The College is increasingly popular and we are now oversubscribed in every year group. We look forward to welcoming 240 year 7 students in September and our largest Year 12 cohort. As our numbers on roll increase, we need to adapt to make sure that all students are cared for and educated effectively. We have recruited new members of staff for September to cater for our growth in numbers. The leadership structure in Key Stage 5 has also changed, with Mr Burton leading this area. His new role, which started on the 1<sup>st</sup> May, is Assistant Principal, Key Stage 5. He is supported by Mrs Nathaniel as Deputy Director and Mrs Shadbolt as the pastoral leader.

We are currently looking at improvement planning for the new academic year and a key area we intend to improve is students working independently. We have already started this drive this year, through our 'Get Ahead, Stay Ahead' strategy, led by Mr Lloyd. We are now formalising this process and will set independent learning tasks for all students to complete for a portion of each school holiday. We believe that doing this throughout the College will help students be better prepared for future study post Midhurst Rother College, as well as helping them get into good habits for internal and external examinations. You will notice that we recently sent work home for years 7-10 to complete over the half-term break. We will do the same for all year groups, including current year 6, for the summer holidays. Years 7-10 have end of year exams starting in June and the tasks we sent to you will help your child to be well prepared for the assessments. We will change students' sets on the basis of the results of these tests and it is important that your child works hard to achieve their very best.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

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In response to parents' views we will also publish all school visits and trips for the next academic year before the end of this year. This will give parents / carers the overview of the trips and visits that are available for each year group so that you can plan in advance. We intend to run as many trips as possible during the 2020 activities week, but this may not be possible in all cases. Some visits, as you know, have already been arranged for new year and these will go ahead as planned.

It is our firm intention to make sure we engage with the local community as much as possible and also that we develop student leadership across the College. We will hold a fireworks event in November, we recently hosted our biggest ever community day and on 12 July we will show Bohemian Rhapsody at our open-air cinema event. Please make sure you get your tickets in advance for what promises to be a fantastic evening. With regard to student leadership, I would like to thank the students who recently trained to be anti-bullying ambassadors through the Princess Diana Award; I look forward to them assisting our students and raising the profile of anti-bullying across the College. Our Head Boy and Girl are leading our drive to become plastic free and have made changes that students will see in relation to recycling after the half-term break. We are also planning that all school visits will be carbon neutral, as well as pushing ahead with our drive to achieve the 'Wellbeing in Schools' Award.

We visit lessons in the College every day and I am pleased to report that we continue to see students working hard and making good progress. The standard of behaviour in the College is very good it is essential that we maintain this. Mrs Dickens recently wrote home to all parents / carers with regards to our expectations of uniform and I would like to thank you all for your support with this.

Schools operate on the basis of good relationships and mutual respect. I recently led assemblies on 'doing the right thing' and I am pleased to report to you that the vast majority of our students do this all the time, with all of us doing this most of the time. We accept that we all make mistakes, but we reinforce the importance of learning from them and trying harder next time. Every day, I see students behaving respectfully towards each other and to staff. They are well-mannered and polite and they make a real effort to keep our College community clean and tidy. They are a pleasure to work with.

**Some dates for your diary:**

Wednesday 12 June	Awards Evening Year 7-10 and 12
Tuesday 18 June	Art, Photography and DT Exhibition
Thursday 20 - Friday 21 June	Musicals Summer Showcase
Tuesday 25 June	New Year 12 Induction Day
	A mid-summer night of drama
Wednesday 26 June	Year 11 Prom
Tuesday 2 July	Year 10 and 12 Parents Evening (Year 10 by invitation only)
Wednesday 3 July	Year 6 Transition Day / Evening
Thursday 4 July	Year 13 Prom
Monday 8 - Friday 12 July	Activities Week
Friday 12 July	Outdoor Movie Night showing Bohemian Rhapsody
Tuesday 16 July	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 19 July	Last Day of Term

**United Learning Examination dates:**

- Year 7 w/b 24 June English, maths, science, geography, history and MFL
- Year 8 w/b 24 June English, maths, science, geography, history and MFL
- Year 9 w/b 17 June English, maths, science, geography and History
- Year 10 w/b 10 June English, maths and science

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Edwards', with a small dot at the end.

Stuart Edwards  
Principal