



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

7 September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

The new school year has started really well, despite it being the hottest week of the year! The students have all settled back to their studies and it is clear from the buzz around the school at break and lunchtimes that they are pleased to see all their friends again. I was delighted to welcome our new Year 7 into the school yesterday, as well as our largest ever Year 12 cohort. The Year 7s have made an excellent start and were, quite simply, fantastic in the activities they did on day one. Please congratulate your child and thank them from me – they have set themselves a high bar which they now need to maintain.

Examination results are always about individual children and their successes. There were many outstanding achievements for Midhurst Rother College students again this year and it was a real privilege to share this with them in the summer holidays. Overall, over 40% of all A-Level grades were A* or A at MRC – this is the highest in West Sussex and nearly double the national average.

Our GCSE results were equally impressive. It was reported in the national press that results would be lower in school this year in comparison to 2022, where transition support post-covid was in place to protect students' grades. Our students bucked the national trend and did better than 2022 – we are one of a very small group of schools to achieve this. Our students' results place us as the highest achieving school in our area, with 80% of children achieving 4+ in English and maths. The students and staff deserve huge credit for their work and efforts – it certainly paid off.

You will be aware that attendance in schools nationally since the pandemic has dropped. This is also the case at MRC and I stressed to students in assemblies yesterday the importance of being here every day. It is clear that students who do not attend regularly do not achieve as well as those who do. Attendance below 95% is a cause for concern and it is at this point that we start to see the impact on learning and progress. To assist with increasing attendance, we have increased our attendance team and now have one member of staff linked to each year group. The team are here to follow-up non-attendance and support parents / carers to send their child to school every day. I remind parents that we are required to take legal action if attendance drops below 90%. We do not want to do this and your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Last year, we introduced our weekly newsletter 'Midhurst Matters'. We will continue with this from next week. This is a more informal way of keeping you informed about key dates and events in school. Another good way of keeping up to date is to follow us on X (formerly Twitter) – our address is @MRC_1st We tweet regularly about the school and I encourage all parents and carers to follow us.

At the start of every new academic year, we run information evenings for parents and carers. These are led by a member of SLT. There will be a short presentation and an opportunity to ask questions at the end. The dates for these are as follows

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Dates for your diary:

Thursday 7 September	Year 9 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 12 September	Year 11 GCSE Success Evening
Wednesday 13 September	Year 10 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 14 September	Year 12/13 Parent Information Evening
Tuesday 19 September	Year 8 Parent Information Evening
Thursday 21 September	Year 7 Welcome Evening and Parental Tours
Thursday 5 October	Year 11 Sixth Form Options Evening
Thursday 12 October	Year 7 Parent Information and Tutor Evening

Other dates for your diary:

Wednesday 20 September	Open Evening
Thursday 21 September	Inset Day

I will write to parents / carers again via Midhurst Matters at the end of next week.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards
Principal