



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

9 June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Covid-19 update

Good communication between College and parents / carers is essential and I appreciate that at times it may appear that we are stretching your tolerance on this. Please bear with us and stay up to date with messages from the College. The unprecedented times we are experiencing has made communication and partnership with you all the more important and there are some key areas that I will address in this letter. As ever, I hope that you and your families are all well and staying safe.

We are partially reopening our College to students in Years 10 and 12 from 15 June and will have up to a quarter of each year group learning with us, socially distanced, from that date. Parents / carers have been written to separately about our plans for this. Our keywords with regard to wider opening of the College are **safe, measured and gradual** and we are adhering strictly to these. We have a comprehensive risk assessment in place and detailed procedures for all staff to follow. We are doing all we can to mitigate risk and keep the children and our staff safe.

I would like to confirm that the College will remain open for vulnerable children and children whose parents are keyworkers. We anticipate that we will have around 80 children on site in total. To help manage their arrival to College, we will ask that wherever possible, the vulnerable / keyworker children arrive between 8.00-8.30am, Year 10 between 8.30-8.45am (for an 8.45 start) and Year 12 between 8.45-9.00am (for a 9.00am start). I appreciate that public or Local Authority transport may render this impossible. If this is the case, please send your child to College as normal and at the normal time. All students except those in Year 12 should attend College in full MRC PE kit.

The students, in the majority of cases, are doing exceptionally well with their remote learning. Please thank them on my behalf and ask them to keep their efforts up! Whilst we are reopening for some students, it is clear that remote learning will be the main method for students' education for the rest of this term. It is essential, therefore, that they **keep up, not catch up**. Open book assessments have started and are ongoing – your support with making sure they are submitted to teachers would be much appreciated. Thank you.

In the national media over the weekend there were stories circulating about schools not opening to all year groups in September. I have not been informed that this will be the case by the DfE, but, as with other planning throughout the pandemic, we had already started to give some consideration to this eventuality. This will become part of our strategic planning over the next few weeks, so that we are prepared should this be needed. Part of this planning is the survey that parents / carers have been sent this week, to ask about internet and computer access for all year groups, including current Year 6. Please can I ask that all parents / carers complete this survey so that we have a full picture. This will help to maintain strong continuity of education for all students if we are not fully open, or if we

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are forced to close due to a second spike in infections later in the year. We are working to be prepared for all eventualities in case they are needed so that your child's education can continue.

Throughout the school closure, our use and knowledge of IT has improved substantially. This week, I will run my first live streamed assembly, starting with Year 7. Students will be invited to attend through a Microsoft invite they will receive. This is new a process for us which we intend to roll out to all year groups and then the whole College. I would also like to use this technology to hold a virtual meeting with all parents / carers and will confirm a day and time in the coming days. The meeting will focus on **Midhurst Rother College's response to Covid19**. In this meeting I will address questions that parents / carers may have. Further details on this, including joining instructions, will follow.

As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, it is clear that the 'new normal' will be quite different from our previous and traditional experiences. I would like to assure all parents / carers that we will continue to adapt, learn from our mistakes and strive to get better in every aspect of what we do in order to better support your child. Please contact us if you feel you need support of any kind.

Yours sincerely

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

Stuart Edwards
Principal