



# Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

13 September 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to welcome you to a new and, hopefully, more 'normal' academic year. I know you will join me in hoping that there are no further lockdowns and that schools stay fully open. The further removal of coronavirus restrictions and bubbles means that our students can now access all areas of the College and are now taught in specialist teaching rooms. We are already seeing the benefits in students' lessons and in social times; they can mix with friends and family members from different year groups. I am pleased to see them with their peers and making new friendships. In this letter, I provide some key information and updates as we start the year.

### Teacher Assessed Grades

Our students achieved fantastic individual results in the summer. The assessment process was different for them due to the cancellation of exams. Nonetheless, our students rose to the challenge and should be proud of their achievements; I know I am and their teachers are. Our Year 13 students gained places at top Universities and apprenticeships and many of our Year 11 have chosen to stay and study with us in the Sixth Form. The students' sense of pride in their results was noticeable on the results' days and it was a real pleasure to see them and to celebrate with them. I would like to wish all our former Year 13 students the very best for their futures.

### Improvement priorities

This year, our focus is on curriculum recovery and making sure students achieve the full curriculum. We are determined that the lockdowns and disruption to learning will not have an adverse effect on students' learning, progress and outcomes in the future. Our priorities are as follows:

1. **High standards:** challenging teaching in every classroom, every day which demands more of every student
2. **Homework:** regular challenging independent learning and homework set in all subjects
3. **Conduct:** excellent behaviour, manners, conduct and uniform, with students being respectful to each other
4. **Wellbeing:** introduction of the MRC Learning Journey to support students' personal development
5. **Reading:** Whole-College Reading in tutor time to develop literacy and understanding of other cultures

Our planning is underpinned by a 'back to basics' approach. We want to make sure that the fundamental building blocks of an outstanding education are firmly in place to support students as we return from two years of disruption. It could be shortened even further for students to: work your hardest, complete all homework, be kind to yourself and respectful to others.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

Midhurst Rother College  
North Street  
Midhurst

West Sussex GU29 9DT

t 01730 812451

f 01730 813524

e [enquiries@mrc-academy.org](mailto:enquiries@mrc-academy.org)

[www.mrc-academy.org](http://www.mrc-academy.org)



### **Peer on peer abuse**

During the summer term we focussed on peer-on-peer abuse with students in tutor time, PSCHE and in assemblies. Our starting point for this is that 'it could happen here' and we encourage our students to talk to us so that we can act where needed to stop any unkindness that may take place. I must stress that the overwhelming majority of our students do the right thing and make correct choices all the time; your children are a pleasure and privilege to educate and care for. A small minority of our students make inappropriate choices some of the time. It is these cases we are working to stop through educating students in assemblies and tutor times and through a zero-tolerance approach where it does occur.

To tackle these serious societal issues, in particular sexual harassment, racism and bullying, we must first be honest: peer on peer abuse takes place in and outside of every school across the country on occasion. This does not mean that we accept it – far from it. We teach our students that there is no place for bullying, racism or sexual harassment in school or society and we encourage and tell our students that they have a moral obligation to let us know if they see or hear anything take place so that on the rare occasions that it happens we can take direct action. Peer on peer abuse is a societal issue which is not solely the role of schools to solve. That does not mean that schools do not have a role to play – we do. Our message to students is simple: be kind, work your hardest and together we can make a difference. Please do let us know if you have any concerns at all. We will then work with and support you.

### **Praise and conduct**

Our students' behaviour and conduct improve each term and year. We have changed our MRC Proud Card from the start of this term and now have one member of staff each period visiting lessons to sign proud cards for the students who are working the hardest or are producing the best work. The students are very proud to have their cards signed for positive reasons. We will continue to do this to make sure that encouragement and praise are central to every lesson.

### **Homework**

In line with raising standards in the classroom and demanding more from students, we are also setting out homework for students more clearly. We have set homework for every subject and every year group on our website here: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/curriculum/homework>. Homework should deepen and extend students' learning. You will see there is a lot of work that we are expecting students to complete from home, much of it online. Homework not only helps students to learn more, but also gets them into good habits for independent study when they join our Sixth Form and beyond. I encourage you to visit our website to see the work that has been set and support your child with staying on top of it. If your child needs assistance with access to an electronic device to complete their work, please let Mr Burton know: [roger.burton@mrc-academy.org](mailto:roger.burton@mrc-academy.org)

### **Year 7 – welcome evening**

Year 7 have made an excellent start to their time with us, even though their transition to us was not as we would have hoped. As a result, we have decided to add in a 'welcome evening' for current Year 7 on 21 September, starting from 6pm. This is a very informal evening and we would like to invite all parents / carers and other family members to come to us to see the College. Your child will be able to show you round and we will have light refreshments available on the evening. There is no formal presentation, but I will be there as will Mrs Dickens and the Year 7 tutors to talk to you informally if you have questions or queries. I look forward to seeing you on the evening and to building relationships with you face to face.

Some dates for your diary:

Wednesday 15 September	Year 10 information evening	18:30
Thursday 16 September	Year 12 information evening	18:30
Wednesday 22 September	Year 8 information evening	18:30
Thursday 23 September	Open Evening	18:30
Thursday 30 September	Sixth Form Options/Open Evening	18:30
Friday 1 October	Inset Day	
Thursday 14 October	Year 7 information evening	18:30
Wednesday 20 October	Year 11 information evening and GCSE Success Fair	18:30

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards  
Principal