



# Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

14 September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

## Start of term

I write to give you a brief update at the start of the second week of this term. I have visited hundreds of lessons over the last week and have been in students' classes every day. I am incredibly pleased with the adaptability they have all shown in their lessons and bubble areas. In lessons, I have seen them working very hard and having spoken with students this week, I know they are pleased to be back in College learning with their teachers and seeing their friends.

I must start by congratulating our students on their fantastic A-Level and GCSE results. They worked hard for the duration of their courses and despite the lack of exams they achieved some fantastic results. Year 13 students gained places at some fantastic Universities, including University College London, Imperial College, Durham University, Bath, Bristol and the University of Oxford. We wish all our former Year 13 students well for the future. Our GCSE students also achieved some fantastic results, including our first student to achieve grade 9 in every subject among many other individual successes. I am pleased that so many of our Year 11 have chosen to stay into sixth form with us.

As you know, students are in 'bubbles' in the College, apart from when they have lessons that require specialist teaching equipment, such as music, art, drama amongst others. They also have their own entrance and exit to the College, their own staircase as well as year group spaces at break and lunch to minimise contact with other year groups. We are constantly reviewing the way the building and our systems operate and we will make the following changes with immediate effect.

The government delegated the decision on students wearing face masks to each individual school. Having reviewed and observed our practice over the last few days, I have decided that students must wear a face mask if they leave their bubble to go to a specialist or other room. There are clear demarcations in the College to show where each bubble starts and ends – students will be expected to wear a mask if they are not in their own area.

Students do not need to wear masks outside of the College building but can if they choose to do so. Similarly, students do not need to wear masks in lessons. We are not insisting that students wear masks during lesson changeovers within their bubble areas, but are recommending that they do. Our direction on this may change in the coming weeks in response to the national and local transmission rate.

I am pleased to report that our attendance levels at the start of this term are very high. Thank you for your continued support with this – regular attendance makes the biggest difference to students' learning and progress. Our Key Stage 5 numbers are also increasingly strong and our Sixth Form is now the largest it has ever been. I look forward to even more of our current Year 11 staying with us for their post 16 studies.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

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 @MRC\_1st  
@MRCSixthForm

Please be aware that we are not able to give medical advice if your child has symptoms. If you believe you or a member of your family has Covid-19 symptoms the most common symptoms to look out for are:

- a high temperature
- a new or persistent cough
- a loss of sense of smell or taste

The guidance with regard to self-isolation remains the same as previously, that families must self-isolate for 14 days if a member of the household is suspected of having the illness. Please contact NHS 111 to arrange a test if these symptoms are present. It is essential that this is adhered to and that children are **not** sent to College if they, or a member of their family has the above symptoms. If there is a confirmed case in College, I will notify Public Health England and will follow their guidance, including use of Test and Trace, and respond accordingly. If a student develops symptoms during the College day, we will isolate the student in line with DFE guidance and arrange for them to be collected.

I will continue to provide more regular, brief updates to you as the term progresses.

Yours sincerely

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

Stuart Edwards  
Principal