



# Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to you as we approach the end of a very busy Autumn term. This has been a difficult and challenging term because of the continued impact of Covid-19, but I will start by thanking your children and would like to state how impressed all staff at the College are with them. The College has been affected quite considerably by both staff and student absences over the last few weeks, which in many schools would unsettle them. This has not been the case for the students at MRC who have continued to work throughout this period – they deserve huge credit for this. I am incredibly proud of them and their positive attitude, despite the challenges they have faced.

Mr Lloyd leads on our Covid response and I know he has written to you separately about this and the testing that is planned for the start of term. I do not wish to repeat his messages here, but I would like to reiterate the importance of students taking LFD tests at home throughout the holidays. We will also increase restrictions in College, but please be assured that all measures we take will place our community's health and safety as first priority.

At the time of writing, summer examinations are planned to go ahead. The exam boards have put contingency plans in place in case they are cancelled again. I sincerely hope this is not the case and I know if this decision is taken it would be as a last resort. The exam boards have asked us to complete formal assessments of Years 11 and 13 in each term of this calendar year. We had already planned to do this as part of our assessment schedule for the year. We are required by the exam boards to keep students' exam papers in school and to use them as part of an evidence base for Teacher Assessed Grades, in the unlikely event that this is required.

In order that our exam year groups are as well prepared as possible for the summer exam series, we have rearranged the date for one of our INSET days. The day has been moved from 21 March to 11 February to coincide with the release of the topic content for the exams. Our staff will spend the day working on revision schedules for Year 11 and 13 students in the lead up to the exams.

It was with huge regret that we had to cancel our traditional Christmas carol service at the church. We are currently holding all assemblies virtually to avoid large groups gathering. The carol service will go ahead and will be recorded, with a small congregation of sixth form students. Students will be shown the service, with our orchestra and bands performing, as well as a message from the Reverend David Willis, on the last day of term. I am pleased that the winter concert went ahead last week, albeit with a reduced audience; the performances were excellent and I extend my thanks and congratulations to all staff and students who were involved.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

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 @MRC\_1st  
@MRCSixthForm

We have been conducting progression interviews with all Year 11 students this term. At this stage, we have the highest number of applicants to our Sixth Form that we have ever had. We have expanded our curriculum offer for the current Year 11 to include new courses and the Sixth Form now has a dedicated area of the College. We will continue to make changes in response to student voice as we go through the year. I am very grateful to the Sixth Form students who organised recent house and charity events; all our charity work is run through our Sixth Form leadership team.

Despite not having a 'normal' transition to secondary school, our Year 7 students have settled incredibly well and are now an established part of the MRC community. I am pleased to report that we have our highest number of first choice applicants for the College for September 2022. Parents and carers will be aware that we are consulting on making changes to our Year 7 admissions for September 2023 and, due to our increased numbers, the Local Authority are funding and building an extension to our changing facilities – this should be completed by January 2023 for school and community use.

I would also like to make parents / carers aware of an internal change we will make after the Christmas holiday. From January, the role of Pastoral Leader will be replaced with 'Head of Year' instead. The Head of Year role will be carried out by the same member of staff who is currently your child's Pastoral Leader. The Head of Year role will combine high level pastoral care and support with a greater emphasis on supporting homework, behaviour and standards of uniform. The Head of Year will lead their respective year groups and will take year group assemblies. I would like to remind parents that your first of contact for any pastoral issues will remain your child's tutor.

Some dates for your diary:

Thursday 6 January	Year 12 Parents' Evening by invitation
Thursday 6 January	Year 13 Parents' Evening 5-8pm
Thursday 3 February	Year 8 & 9 HPV vaccinations
Wednesday 9 February	Year 7 Parents Evening 5-8pm
Friday 11 February	Inset Day
Thursday 17 February	Careers Fair

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, your family and friends a very happy and restful Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards  
Principal