



# Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

17 October 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to you at the end of a very busy, productive and positive half-term. Half-term is one week earlier than in previous years, but there is still lots to update you on with regard to events in College. I remain incredibly impressed with your children; they are working hard in lessons, they are polite, well dressed and respectful. They have made an excellent start to the year and deserve a lot of credit for their effort and behaviour. Part of my half-termly newsletters will also contain a paragraph from the Local Governing Body to update parents and carers on the work they are doing to support and challenge the College to improve.

I start by congratulating both Year 11 and Year 13 for their outstanding examination results in the summer. Half of all our grades in Key Stage 5 were A\*- B and our students were successful in gaining places at top universities around the country. Standards in Year 11 were better than in 2017; results were higher in English and maths and will place MRC in the top 10% for similar schools nationally. Our 'Progress 8' measure is also well above national average and performance in 15 subjects was also above national average. The students deserve real credit for their individual results and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all College staff for the support they gave to both year groups. Our current Year 11 and 13 are also working hard and I look forward to their successes during the year.

We continue to visit lessons every day and see students working well. We recently hosted Jan Shadick, Regional Director for United Learning. She visited every classroom in the College and was hugely impressed with the quality of work students were producing, their behaviour and courtesy in corridors. I am particularly pleased that Year 7 have settled well in College and have made new friendships. They are also very confident in knowing their way around the building and were fantastic ambassadors for the College on our open morning and evenings.

Student voice and leadership is incredibly important to us and making this better is a key priority for the College this year. Near the path on the way into the College is an installation made of stones, which have been shaped into 'MRC'. All students and staff have written their values on them and these have now been set in stone. An indication of the respect the students show for others was the sponsored walk we did in the summer, raising several thousands of pounds for a local hospice.

Another priority for this year for us is greater partnership with the local community. We will be commemorating Armistice Day with a week of activities in College, with members of the community joining us to share their experiences. There will be more information on this after half-term. We are also hosting a fireworks to music event on Friday 2 November in conjunction with Midhurst Primary School and Easebourne Primary schools. Tickets are selling fast and are on sale now in reception for students to purchase. As well as the fireworks, there will be food, entertainment and refreshments available. The proceeds from this evening will be spent by the MRC Parents Association to support students in College. We will ask the students what they would like to see in their College and will act upon their wishes, if possible. We are also working at present on making the College more accessible to local community groups. I will update you with more information on this as the term progresses.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

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 @MRC\_1st  
@MRCSixthForm

It was good to see so many parents and carers at the information evenings we held earlier this term. These are important evenings which provide an overview of the year and let parents and carers know how they can support their children to be successful. Linked to this, is our 'Get Ahead, Stay Ahead' programme which is being led by Mr Lloyd. We recently held our prize draw for students who had completed the tasks. Around 2500 tasks were completed, which was fantastic. There are more tickets available to be earned after half-term and I would ask all parents and carers to encourage their children to complete as many tasks as possible. We were also incredibly popular at the Year 7 and Year 12 open evenings, which is a good indicator of future numbers at the College.

The focus of the Local Governing Body this half-term has been the analysis of the summer results and the College Improvement Plan for the next academic year. Governors have been part of the consultation with the senior leadership team to devise the plan and we will work with the College through regular visits and engagement to monitor its implementation. As a group, we have been assessing our practice against the United Learning governance framework, and have produced a development plan to improve our practice. Key strategic issues remain the finances of the College and the handing over of the building from WSCC to United Learning. All governors remain strongly committed, have been delighted by the progress of the results for all within our college community and excited by the aspirational plans in place that will lead MRC to even greater achievements.

My reflection on the first half-term of the year is that the College continues to improve. Attendance is higher, students are working hard, E-Praise points are higher, behaviour incidents are significantly lower, students are making strong progress in every subject and results in the summer showed improvements from last year, notably in Year 11. It is my view that the students are embracing the values they chose of *respect, happiness and achievement* and that this is leading to a change of culture in the College. This was always a strength in the College, but I feel this is improving. Having the right culture and ethos in the College will enable us to go from strength to strength. Your children are making this happen and deserve huge credit.

Some dates for your diary:

Friday 2 November	MRC Parents Firework Event - tickets available from reception
Thursday 8 November	Careers Fair
Wednesday 28 November	Winter Concert
Friday 30 November	Inset Day
Wednesday 5 December	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 11 and Wednesday 12 December	Carol Services
Thursday 13 December	Year 11, 12 and 13 Parents' Evening (Year 12 by invitation only)
Wednesday 19 December	Last day of half term (students will finish at 1.40pm, bus companies are aware)

I wish you all a very restful and enjoyable half-term.

Yours sincerely



Stuart Edwards  
Principal