



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

19 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Temporary closure of Midhurst Rother College

As you will be aware, the Government has announced that all schools in England will close temporarily for the vast majority of children from the end of the day on Friday 20 March. This decision has been taken on the advice of medical and scientific experts in order to manage the spread of COVID-19 and relieve pressure on the health system. This means that from Monday 23 March, students' education will continue from home.

By the end of this week we will send you specific details of how this will operate. We have prepared well for these circumstances so that all our students can continue their education from home during the closure. I reiterate my message from my email yesterday: we are not abandoning your children. They are still part of our College community – this decision does not change that. I am extremely grateful to staff in our College for the work they have done to prepare for your child.

The College will remain open to two groups of children: those who are defined as key workers and those who are particularly vulnerable, as follows:

1. Key workers: at the time of writing, this has not been declared by the Cabinet Office. If you feel you qualify as a keyworker following the announcement, please fill out the form and submit via this link: [MRC – Key Worker Link](#). These are likely to be, but not exclusively, people who work in the health sectors and with responsibility for delivering food to supermarkets;
2. Children who could be deemed to be vulnerable.

I would ask that parents who believe they fall into the category of key workers to contact Stephen Hudson our Data Manager as soon as possible using the MRC Key Worker link above no later than 12 noon on Friday 20 March so that we can arrange for your child to continue to attend school.

We will be identifying those students who are in the second category and will be contacting their parents and carers separately. If you believe your child falls into this latter category and you have not heard from us by 9am on Friday 20 March please contact your child's pastoral leader.

The Government has also decided that no external exams will take place this academic year. Over the coming days, they will announce plans for how those due to sit them this year will be able to gain their qualifications. I know how important this will be for our older pupils and we will be ensuring that whatever is put in place can be implemented through the College in a way that does not penalise any of our students' places at university or Sixth Form.

Principal: Stuart Edwards

Midhurst Rother College
North Street
Midhurst

West Sussex GU29 9DT

t 01730 812451

f 01730 813524

e enquiries@mrc-academy.org

www.mrc-academy.org



@MRC_1st

@MRCSixthForm

It may be that teacher assessments and predicted grades will be at the heart of the system this year. If so, it is possible that we will need to justify our assessed grades using pupils' work on paper, in books and from internal examinations. It is essential that your child continues to work hard on the work we are setting them to do, as well as work they have already done, as this may be needed as evidence. We will continue to work intensively with them in the coming weeks so that whatever is ultimately assessed for qualifications is representative of each pupil's best ability.

Over the next few days, we will be in a position to update you further and provide additional information on ways we will be able to support your child during this time. In particular we will be finalising how we can ensure that students on Free School Meals will receive entitlement to food. We will be doing everything we can to deliver whatever is required of us by Government.

We are entering times of further uncertainty, speculation and concern and our responsibility as a school, like yours as a parent, is to give our young people the learning, support and reassurance that they will need in the coming weeks.

We will continue to update parents on a regular basis with important information as we receive it by email but please do regularly check on the school's website.

Thank you for your continued support and for working with us in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

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

Stuart Edwards
Principal