



12 December 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

I write to you at the end of a very busy and positive term in school. This brief letter replaces 'Midhurst Matters' for the first week of term and I have included key dates for the first week in January, for your information. We return to week A.

| Date                | Event / Activity    | Details                       |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Monday 2 January    | Bank holiday        |                               |
| Tuesday 3 January   | INSET day           | School closed to all students |
| Wednesday 4 January | School reopens      | Normal time for all students  |
|                     | Year 7 assessments* | Classroom based for students  |
| Thursday 5 January  | Year 7 assessments  | Classroom based for students  |
| Friday 6 January    | Year 7 assessments  | Classroom based for students  |

\*Classroom based assessments will start in the first week back. Year 7 will have English, maths and science mid-year assessments in the theatre w/c 16 January.

I am incredibly proud of the students at Midhurst Rother College. We see them every day working hard and learning. In lessons, they are well focussed and are doing well. I tell students in assembly that they all do the right thing the vast majority of the time and nearly all do this all the time. We must also accept that we all make mistakes, myself included but it is important that we strive to do better everyday. I am pleased to tell you that I see your children doing this on a regular basis.

There have been many individual and collective achievements that I would like to share with you from this term. Our sports teams have competed in football, rugby, netball, indoor athletics and cross-country. Our students performed a wonderful winter concert and the orchestra played in the church for the carol service last week. Our drama students were also showing their talent at the winter concert, in particular the cast of Mary Poppins and the BTEC drama students from Hamilton. We continue to be the highest achieving school in West Sussex for Seneca and Sparx, which shows how well the students are doing with their independent learning and homework, embedding good habits for revision when in exam years.

We also have had some fantastic individual performances: Bella Johnson in Year 8 has achieved Grade 8 in both piano and clarinet, having only started learning less than three years ago. Frank Clark in Year 7 is a GB tumbling champion – you may have seen him perform on our Twitter feed recently, [click here to view](#) – it is certainly worth a view. He has also now been reselected for the 2023-2024 GB National Squad. A special mention must also go to Hugo Marchant-Williams in Year 7 for beautifully opening each of the five carol services with a solo performance of Rossetti's carol In The Bleak Midwinter.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

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We are proud members of the Rother Valley group of schools. Most recently, we have hosted Year 5 Inspiring Science and Creative Textiles Enrichment Days and over 100 students from the primaries joined us this week for the dress rehearsal performance of the Year 10 Pantomime, Peter Pan. This was followed by an enthusiastic Q & A session for the primary students with the cast.

The Edurio survey closed recently, and I am grateful to parents / carers for their responses. As a school, we welcome feedback – positive and negative – as this helps us to improve. I will share more information from the survey in the new year. The areas that were rated highest overall by parents are: communication between the school and parents (day to day communication), mutual trust and supporting learning. The areas that were lowest are: extra-curricular activities and trips and visits being more relevant to learning. We will return to this in the spring term. I would be interested to run a focus group with parents on these issues – please let my PA know if you would like to join this on [sarah.banbury@mrc-academy.org](mailto:sarah.banbury@mrc-academy.org)

I would like to wish you all a very restful Christmas break and a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

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

Stuart Edwards  
Principal