



# Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

16 December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you about an exciting opportunity for your child next term. We have been invited to participate in a project in conjunction with the University of Reading, working with a selected group of 20 students from Midhurst Rother College, currently in Year 10. As Assistant Principal, one of my responsibilities is to ensure that able learners here aim high for their futures, recognising and fulfilling their academic potential. UK Universities want to encourage a broader range of students to study at University, so they are keen to nurture talent and inspire students earlier than Year 13, when students finally apply for degree courses. Below for your information is a summary of the project proposed by the University, who we already work with on several outreach activities for older Midhurst Rother College students.

**The Year 10 Reading Scholars Programme offers a valuable opportunity for students to raise their aspirations, confidence and academic attainment through informing them about their options beyond school, increasing understanding of Higher Education and offering a head start in developing key study skills for current and further study.** Please note that the University will cover all associated costs for events including transport to and from campus.

### Year 10 Reading Scholars benefits

- Develop and improve students' **study skills** – session titles in programme plan.
- Learn and practice advanced skills through an independent **project** on a topic that interests them.
- Find out about options beyond school and possible future careers through **information, advice and guidance sessions** such as the benefits of higher education, the opportunities at University (i.e., societies, sports, extra-curricular activities, placements, study abroad, volunteering etc.), exploring degree options and career paths, working towards goals and aspirations, how to live independently at University and more.
- A free University **campus visit**.
- Gaps between events will be bridged by academic **mentoring** online, where they will be able to ask questions of staff and trained Academic Mentors.

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

Midhurst Rother College  
North Street  
Midhurst

West Sussex GU29 9DT

t 01730 812451

f 01730 813524

e [enquiries@mrc-academy.org](mailto:enquiries@mrc-academy.org)

[www.mrc-academy.org](http://www.mrc-academy.org)

 @MRC\_1st  
@MRCSixthForm

## 2022 Programme Plan

- Selected students will be invited to attend four events at their school and one on our campus, Covid restrictions permitting. Events will include study skills sessions and talks about topics such as student life at University. The dates and study sessions will be as follows:
- January 2022 at school: Creating a research question and conducting effective research.
- February 2022 at school: Synthesising information and developing an argument.
- April 2022 at school: Referencing and plagiarism.
- June 2022 on the University of Reading campus: Reflection and project presentation.

Throughout the project, your son / daughter will work with myself, Mr. Clements, University staff and a team of student ambassadors from Reading. They will learn valuable study skills and gain an early insight into University life. I hope you agree this will be a great way of motivating students ahead of Year 11 and equipping them with confidence in themselves as learners too. Please note the dates of the sessions will be confirmed early in January. Sessions may mean missing an afternoon lesson and sometimes involve a 4.00pm or 4.30pm finish time. For your child to hold their place on this programme, you must email to accept the place by Monday 10 January 2022 ([Fiona.lunskey@mrc-academy.org](mailto:Fiona.lunskey@mrc-academy.org)). Do also contact me if you have any other questions about the Scholars' project with Reading University.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fiona Lunskey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'F' and 'L'.

Fiona Lunskey  
Assistant Principal: Raising Standards