



19 July 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

## Year 10 – 11 Transition

Firstly, I would like to congratulate your son or daughter on their positive and mature approach to Work Experience. In College, we have received some great testimonials from some companies where MRC students were on placement last week. I am sure a week in a workplace has given our Year 10 students a lot of food for thought about the future.

We are grateful to parents who have written to us recently to give feedback on the reports generated on the new system (Arbor). We are disappointed with the layout of the report too and have fed this back to the company. Our move from one MIS system to another at Easter has not been straight forward and the report writing aspect is not where we want it to be currently. Please be assured we will be improving the layout for future reports. We have not had comments from each subject teacher for a few years now, as we felt that the comments were bland and had little impact. We felt that the breakdown of components for each subject was more useful alongside an attitude to learning (A2L) grade and a current grade. Our attitude to learning grades provide you with some more detail on classroom behaviour and homework.

- Outstanding – Exceptional focus on learning and all homework tasks complete, leading to independence
- Good – Clear focus on learning and all homework tasks complete
- Concern – Mostly focussed on learning with most homework tasks complete
- Serious concern – Some focus on learning with some homework tasks complete

Regarding the empty comment boxes, I'm afraid Arbor does not allow us to remove the box even though we do not need it. We also do not provide predicted grades in Year 10 as they are sometimes misleading, but they will be coming out to you in the next tracking point. Over the course of Year 11, students will get 5 tracking points with predicted grades and there will be a parents' evening in December after the first internal exams.

I understand the concerns felt by many parents about the current grades on these reports being rather low. It is worth pointing out that GCSE grades are now determined by the performance of each candidate relative to the performance of all the other candidates in each exam, from across the country. Since GCSEs were reformed in 2016, there are no longer benchmarks of knowledge or skill that you must demonstrate to attain each grade. This year group throughout England have suffered a loss of learning and some students in other regions have had many more days of school closure than us. Having said that, it will be my responsibility to monitor your child's progress through the next year and I am keen to work with parents on supporting and challenging students, to ensure success next summer 2022.

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In order to get a head start with Year11 courses, it is vital that your son or daughter completes the “Warm-up Work” that they are asked to do in each subject. We are setting students **one hour of study per subject** to help them get back into good work habits after a well-deserved break this summer. I envisage students returning to their work in the week commencing 30 August and preparing themselves for a challenging but rewarding Year 11. Subject teachers will tell students what they are setting before we break up. They may provide work on paper, MS Teams and/or email for your child to do. Please see my recent letter about the Year11 and Beyond Presentation or the MRC website if you missed this information and would like to catch up on the year ahead for your child starting Year 11 soon.

[https://midhurstrothercollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/fiona\\_lunskey\\_mrc-academy\\_org/\\_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Ffiona\\_lunskey\\_mrc-academy\\_org%2FDocuments](https://midhurstrothercollege-my.sharepoint.com/personal/fiona_lunskey_mrc-academy_org/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Ffiona_lunskey_mrc-academy_org%2FDocuments)

The new Year 11 will return to College on Monday 6 September. We will hold a Year 11 evening for parents on 29 September. You will also be invited to a Sixth Form fair on 7 October. Finally, I would like to thank families for their dedicated support of Year 10 students’ studies and wellbeing this year.

With best wishes for a wonderful summer break.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F Lunskey'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Mrs F Lunskey  
Director for Standards, Year 11