



Midhurst Rother College

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Part of United Learning

14 September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to the families of Year 11 students at Midhurst Rother College to introduce myself and give some advance information about what to expect during the first term of this important academic year.

As Assistant Principal with responsibility for raising standards, helping Year 11 students succeed academically is my top priority. I work closely with Mr Clements to ensure students' well-being is cared for whilst each child is encouraged to work hard and make great progress. A good education is not defined purely by exam results, but excellent GCSE results give students more choices in life, now and for decades to come. Excellent grades for any child are individual, depending on their starting points at secondary school, their talents, and aptitudes. With teaching and support staff, I want to ensure that your son or daughter is challenged to do their best and fulfil their potential next summer. We have been delighted with the GCSE results at MRC this summer and we have high hopes for this new year group.

The students have impressed us so far with their positive approach to learning in lessons this term. There are many important activities and opportunities offered to Year 11, to help them prepare for the external exams and think about the future.

- Homework will be set regularly, and it is vital for Year 11 students to maintain or develop regular study habits outside lessons. A quiet place to study until 5pm is provided at College after lessons every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday if students wish to get more done before going home.
- Some students will be invited to booster sessions in maths, English or science. These will be run as small groups so teachers can home in on common misconceptions and improve pupils' confidence or understanding, so they can move their grades upwards. Booster groups will be reviewed after practice exams so that students can be moved out of - or into - these groups, depending on progress.
- Students will sit practice exams regularly in an exam hall or in class. These exams help students hone their exam technique and get used to silent, independent working for sustained periods of time. The exams help staff see what to prioritise for teaching and revision and/or which students need targeted interventions. In November, students will sit a complete set of exams over three weeks, leading to a "results day" in December.
- Some students will have regular meetings with a mentor, to motivate them this year or coach them in weaker subjects. Mentors may well contact home to share concerns or good news.

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- Fortnightly PSHE lessons and tutor time each morning will include reflection time and goal setting sessions. Students will discuss time management and plan their time for revision e.g., before going on half-term in October, to prepare for the November exams. They will also meet with outside visitors to hear about a variety of further and higher education, apprenticeships, and university courses.
- An external company will visit us on Wednesday 12 October, to deliver intensive sessions, showing students how to revise effectively.
- MRC will hold a Sixth Form Options Day on Thursday 6 October for students to try Sixth Form lessons in their preferred subjects. That evening we will invite parents and students to the Options Evening to find out more about the courses on offer.
- You will be invited with your son/daughter to a GCSE Success Evening on Wednesday 19 October to find out about how GCSE exams have changed in recent years. Directors of core subjects will also run practical sessions about exam technique in their subjects, so you can see what your child is expected to master... and have a go yourself!
- Staff from universities (including Reading) will meet students and answer lots of questions about choosing degree courses, entry requirements, applying successfully, budgeting for university, studying from home or moving out to halls of residence. A day trip to the University of Reading for students is likely to take place in December. This will be a chance to attend a lecture, explore the campus, meet current undergraduates, and imagine student life.
- Around 40 students in the year group will be relaxing after the practice exams (in November), on a festive trip to the Cologne Christmas markets at the end of term. We do have a few spare places and students should see me if they would like to join the trip.

As you can see, Year 11 is a very busy time for staff and students. Your support is vital as the going will get tough at times. I look forward to meeting you at the Options Evening or the GCSE Success Evening. Please get in touch with me or Mr Clements by email, as we go along, if we can help with any concerns you have.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Fiona Lunskey
Assistant Principal Raising Standards