



# Midhurst Rother College

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9 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

## Attendance update

We are now halfway through the academic year and so a good time to remind you of the importance of your child's attendance which, as we know, is crucial to learning.

Missing 2 weeks for a family holiday in term time means a student on 3 subjects misses an average of 40 hours of learning; things they will never be taught again but will face in exams. Broken attendance, a day off a week or fortnight on random days, means that they will miss learning, and will struggle to understand the work in the following lessons which are taught in sequence and rely on prior knowledge.

There is a direct correlation between absence and exam results. Put simply, students who miss lessons regularly reduce their potential; they learn less than their peers and develop poor habits to take into university or a workplace. The world of work is very different to college: poor punctuality or an indifferent attitude to responsibility can result in dismissal.

We know students are occasionally ill, and this is unavoidable. Please email me, [Lisa.shadbolt@mrc-academy.org](mailto:Lisa.shadbolt@mrc-academy.org) to report any absences. Similarly, we all need to see a Doctor, Dentist, or attend medical appointments. Where possible, these need to be made outside of lesson time. If this is not possible, students can request their absence through an absence request form (also known as the pink form), available from the common room. Driving lessons must be arranged around lessons. Time off will be given for tests, both practical and theory.

Timetables are viewable on Arbor so you can see when your son/daughter should be in College. As a reminder, all Sixth Form students are expected to be in tutor time every Monday and Wednesday. Private studies are chosen by the students, and they are expected to register for, and attend, these. They form part of the learning hours and full attendance is compulsory, not optional.

To keep you up to date with your son/daughter's attendance, we already provide a half-termly overview on the Portal, colour coded in red, amber and green to highlight the areas of concern. Thankfully, these are minimal. To now take this one step further, we have created a report that will be sent home every Friday afternoon via email, starting on Friday 23 February. This will detail the lessons your son/daughter have missed that week so you can see how many hours of learning have been impacted. Do contact me with any queries relating to this; I'm sure there will be some as we launch it and work out any inaccuracies. I hope you find it helpful.

Please can I ask you to support us and your son/daughter in giving them the best possible chance to achieve the results they deserve, and work with us to ensure their attendance is enabling their success.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Shadbolt  
Sixth Form Manager

**Principal: Stuart Edwards**

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