



10 May 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Embedding good habits: Independent Learning and Homework

Every week, members of the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Department visit lessons across the College. This gives us a good insight into the quality of teaching and learning in every classroom, allowing us to share best practice and make further improvements. Our expectation is that students 'switch to silence' for reading, writing and individual tasks, as they are better able to concentrate when doing this. We have been doing this for some time and are seeing the benefits of this in terms of students' learning and progress.

Embedding good study habits through homework and independent learning are crucially important to your child's success, for two key reasons:

1. It helps students to consolidate and extend learning from their lessons, and
2. It gets all students into good independent study habits which they will need to achieve their full potential in examinations and in the workplace.

This academic year, we set homework for all students on our website every week. This will continue to be the case and I am pleased with the efforts students are making to complete this work each week. The evidence of this is shown in the United Learning mid-year assessments in English and maths, where Midhurst Rother College was comfortably in the top ten schools in the Trust for both subjects. This is a very strong basis from which to build further.

Independent (online) learning as homework:

The College has invested heavily in online platforms to help students to learn and reach their full potential. It is our expectation that students use these platforms every day after school to embed the two points made above. We strongly believe that this will help your child to excel both now and in the future.

All students in Year 8 must:

- i. Complete 30 minutes of Sparx maths every day
- ii. Complete 30 minutes of Seneca Learning (science) every day

This will give students one hour of independent learning every day. Through committing to this in Year 8, learning from home will become a habit. This will make the transition to GCSE and A-Level at MRC seamless, as key concepts, skills and learning habits will have been embedded. The tasks are also personalised to meet the needs of each student and provides targeted support.

We will continue to reward students who meet these expectations in half-termly rewards assemblies and in weekly assemblies. We will also introduce 60 minute after school detentions for students who do not meet this expectation, in order that they can complete the missed learning. If access to a device to complete this work is a barrier, please let Mr Burton know (roger.burton@mrc-academy.org) and he can look to support you with this.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely

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

Stuart Edwards
Principal