



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

4 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Update on Year 6 transition to Midhurst Rother College

I hope that you, your families and friends are all well and are staying safe. I know that some families have been affected by Covid-19, they, and you, are very much in our thoughts.

This letter provides an overview of our plans for transition in the unique set of circumstances we are experiencing this year. Our planning is guided by the following principles, which are intended to make the move to MRC one that supports your child and places pastoral care at the centre. Our principles are:

1. that every child is supported to make transition as seamless as possible, under the circumstances;
2. that additional planning and communication takes place for vulnerable children and those with special needs;
3. that communication between MRC and primary feeder schools and parents is effective, and;
4. that every child joining us is known prior to their start at MRC, enabling them to make a good start with us.

Building relationships and good communication between College staff and families are always important, but arguably never more so than now. Covid-19 has created barriers to the normal transition process but I feel that these can be overcome through more regular communication between us. We are already in communication with primary feeder schools about the children coming to us in September. Every family will receive a telephone call so that we can get to know your child before they arrive with us. This phone call will be made by an appropriate member of College staff, who will be either from our pastoral team, our safeguarding team, our SEN team or our pupil premium team. These phone calls will start during w/c 8 June. We have 240 phone calls to make, so please don't worry if we don't call you immediately. If you have any concerns at all, please email accept@mrc-academy.org and we will get back to you.

With recent government announcements that a phased return to school is likely, I am hopeful that your child will be able to have a transition experience in the College. If we do go ahead with this, I would like to reassure parents / carers that this will be managed taking into account all advice from Public Health England, including guidance on social distancing. This may mean that our transition day, if it occurs, will be run over several days to reduce the number of children in the College building to enable us to maintain distance between children. More information on this will follow in due course, following government updates.

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In the absence of a transition day, we are still planning to communicate with you and your child. We will be in touch with you once every two weeks to provide updates and information for you. Often, this will be in the form of online videos or video PowerPoints to make the experience more visual. Next week we will send you a virtual tour of the College, with a voiceover from one of our current Year 7 students, as well as a welcome from our Head Boy and Girl. Following that, you will receive a video PowerPoint welcome from me, Mrs Dickens and Mrs Mitchell, who will be Pastoral Leader for Year 7. I encourage you to watch these videos together as a family.

We are aware that Year 6 will not be taking SATs exams this year. I would like to reassure parents / carers that this will not affect transition to Midhurst Rother College. We will take teacher assessed grades from primary schools when we contact them, so that we have good information to use to help us to settle your child and challenge them academically from day one. In July we will send your child a task to do during the summer holidays that we would like them to bring with them when they start. This will be from our English, maths and science departments. It is likely that we will ask Year 7 in September to complete some assessments so that we can ascertain where gaps in knowledge from the school closure may be. This will allow us to reshape our curriculum accordingly.

We have been in contact with Stevensons, our uniform supplier, with regard to stocks of uniform for September. They are currently closed due to the pandemic, but have assured us that they will be able to supply uniform for September, and we will update you on this. For families whose child would travel to Midhurst Rother College on Local Authority buses, WSCC transport will make contact with you. We would also ask that if your child plays a musical instrument and you would like them to receive lessons (charged by WSCC), please let us know on the above email address.

I mentioned in my previous letter that transition can be a challenging time for some students. I want to make sure we work with you and your child to make sure that this process is positive and that we gain a good understanding and knowledge of your son / daughter as an individual before they start with us.

We will contact you again next week and will send you our virtual school tour. In the meantime, if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

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

Stuart Edwards
Principal