



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

7 March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to start by warmly welcoming you to the Midhurst Rother College community. We are delighted that your child has been allocated a place with us we look forward to them transitioning to us and starting with us September. I would like to thank you for placing your trust in us; we will not let you or your child down.

I know, as a parent, that the transition from primary to secondary school can be quite daunting for all concerned. We want to make this transition as seamless as possible so that the move to secondary school is something to look forward to and not to fear.

We must also accept that we have all been deeply affected by the pandemic. Please be assured that we have put plans in place to make sure our students are not disadvantaged by this, either academically or socially. We have increased our expectations and standards in lessons and will expect your child to complete homework for every lesson. Our enrichment programme will run three times per week, allowing your child the opportunity to follow their personal interests. Life is beginning to return to normal and it is with an increased sense of optimism that I look forward to the future and working with you.

I will now turn to some more practical items that I would ask you to note and action as needed.

What you need to do now

The College is full and is over-subscribed – we are currently operating a waiting list. We would be grateful if you could please complete the attached acceptance form. Please note it will request that you provided us with a copy of your current council tax statement as proof of your address. WSCC ask all schools to undertake this address validation exercise on their intakes. Please can I ask that you prioritise completing this. Thank you.

To make this process simple, the form is online and can accessed via this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=faTnVVu_D0asCx3EslIaxfz_Fe0a3ihPnhE_euZGCrVUNEIRNjgzUUQ0R1NNMFBUUk0QjJOVVNZMy4u.

The link can also be found on our website <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/transition>. Please complete the form and email a copy (photo) of your council tax statement to accept@mrc-academy.org. Should you no longer require your place please use this form to inform us of this. Alternatively, you can request a paper copy of the form by contacting madeline.hathaway@mrc-academy.org.



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The Transition Process

At the beginning of the summer term, colleagues from the College will visit your child's school to introduce themselves in the classroom, enabling students and staff to get to know one another and giving everyone a head start for the new academic year. Teachers and the Head of Year will be able to learn about our new year group as a whole and about individuals, while students will have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with members of staff who will be responsible for their learning and wellbeing in the coming years. Our Director for Additional Educational Needs, Ms Ward will also make visits to spend time with those students who may require support when they join in September.

In the meantime, we will be delivering virtual taster sessions across the curriculum for all new starters. Details of these will be emailed to you shortly. LIVE and recorded to watch either in the classroom or at home with parents. We would like to invite all students to spend the day at Midhurst Rother College, on **Wednesday 6 July 2022**, the details of which will follow in later correspondence. During that day students take part in a range of fun, but informative activities to help familiarise themselves with the College environment. In the evening, Parents/Carers will have the opportunity to attend a presentation about the College and the transition period and meet key staff. Our intention is that by the end of the day students and Parents/Carers will feel confident about the start of term in September.

We would also like to bring your attention to the **CLiL 2022** group. Content and Language Integrated Learning, or CLIL, is where a subject, or subjects, are taught in the target language rather than the first language of the learners. One tutor group will be composed of students who choose to learn French through a range of lessons including conventional MFL lessons. We are planning for French to be taught through art, drama, textiles, food technology, science/maths and geography. Students do not need to have started French at primary school to be included in the class; they just need to be keen to learn. Please see the enclosed information, from Mrs Lunskey, for further details of this group and taster sessions on offer.

We are very pleased that you have chosen Midhurst Rother College and look forward to providing your child with a platform from which they can reach their full potential and become part of what we think is a very special community. In the meantime, we wish our new students a very memorable and happy end to Year 6 at primary school.

After the Easter break, I will be in touch again with a more detailed transition programme and also information about uniform and all the essentials associated with College life.

Please keep in touch with Midhurst Rother College news and updates through our website- www.mrc-academy.org and do not hesitate to contact the College if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Edwards
Principal

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**Calling adventurous Year 6 Students
who are up for a challenge!**

Yes, you! Why not?

Imagine:

Having some of your lessons

ALL in FRENCH!

We will be starting our second CLiL at Midhurst Rother College in September 2022.

What is CLiL?

It means content & language integrated learning. In addition to conventional MFL classes, one tutor group of Year 7 students will also learn through French, in some additional subject areas, following the same curriculum as their peers, but working in the foreign language. Students do not need to have started French at primary school to be included in the class; they just need to be keen to learn!

If you'd like your child to have a taste of what's in store for CLiL students at Midhurst Rother College. Each student can apply for up to 3 of the sessions of their choice.

Date	Activity	Timing
Wed 16 March	COOKERY	4pm-5.15pm
Thurs 17 March	FRENCH ART	4pm-5pm
Wed 23 March	PLAY-DOH SCULPTURE	4pm-5.15pm
Tues 29 March	LA GÉOGRAPHIE DE LA FRANCE	4pm-5pm
Wed 30 March	SCIENCE	4pm-5pm
Tues 6 April	LES MATHÉMATIQUES SONT FANTASTIQUES	4pm-5pm

Students will need to be at Midhurst Rother College reception no earlier than 3.50pm for a 4.00pm start. They will be ready for collection from the same point at the end of the session. Please note that we are unable to help with transport and that the journey between home and the College will be the responsibility of parents and carers. To apply for a place on the taster session, please complete the online booking form by Monday 14 March by following this link

APPLY FOR TASTER SESSIONS HERE

For further information:

Please see our website <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/clil-2022>

or email Mrs Fiona Lunskey, Assistant Principal fiona.lunskey@mrc-academy.org

CLiL 2022 FAQs

Thank you for your interest in new our CLiL tutor group, planned for 25-30 students starting in year 7 at Midhurst Rother College September 2022. We are holding taster classes after school, delivering active lessons, in cookery, geography, maths and model-making through French. These will be very enjoyable for staff and visiting year 6 students.



From Friday 1 April we will be inviting parents to assist their child with applying for a place in the CLiL tutor group via a link on the CLiL webpage <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/transition/clil-2022>

If your child cannot attend the taster sessions; he/she is still most welcome to apply for CLiL. Here is a list of frequently asked questions to help you decide about CLiL. After applications are closed on Monday 25 April, we will invite students to attend a CLiL induction morning in May.

FAQs:

- 1. How much curriculum time will my child have through French?** How much curriculum time will my child have through French? Students at MRC spend just over 29 hours per week in classes (leaving out break and lunch times). In the CLiL group, approx. 13 hours per week will be delivered through French, between one third and one half of their lesson time.
- 2. What subjects will be taught through French?** For year7, we anticipate MFL, geography, drama, art, some enrichment being taught in French. We hope to offer of work through French in maths or science, subject to timetable constraints. Subjects through French will evolve through the three-year programme, subject to staffing.
- 3. What is to be gained by following a “CLiL” path in Key Stage 3?** Educational research shows that learners are considerably challenged by having to think hard in content led or immersion-style language teaching lessons, where different subjects are taught through a foreign language. Learners must listen and concentrate well, make inferences, apply logic and knowledge of their first language. They must be, or must become, resilient and prepared to ask questions & make contributions, so they can get over making mistakes, check their understanding and above all persevere. These skills and characteristics allow students to progress well in all areas of learning. Outcomes for CLiL students are usually better than those of non-CLiL students of similar ability. Having gained a second language to a very good level, CLiL students can enjoy travel and career opportunities long after they leave school.
- 4. How long will the CLiL project last?** We anticipate students studying French through normal languages lessons and immersion lessons for years 7-9, after which CLiL students would study their GCSE courses through English.
- 5. Could CLiL students take GCSE French early?** CLiL students might be ready for GCSE at the end of year 9. However, this would be reviewed for each student and postponed for anyone not ready by that stage.

6. **What could CLiL students do in years 10-11?** Students might get ready for GCSE in French or take a bridging course. Pupils would be very well prepared for success at A level, if desired, in the sixth form.
7. **What authentic experiences will be offered to CLiL students?** Covid restrictions willing, we plan to take students to France in Year 8 and year 10. This may be an immersion trip in Normandy just after Easter in year 8, to the boarding house of our partner school in Nogent-Le-Rotrou or maybe on a ski course in year 10. At MRC, we are very lucky to have the generous support of an educational charity (the Gilbert Hannam Trust), to support students financially with study trips. We would therefore expect parents of CLiL students to be supportive of these experiences, where their child can use their French in real situations and discover France. We may also ask CLiL parents to host students from our link school, when they are once again able to visit Midhurst for 5 days. We are lucky to have a French bakery in Midhurst and the owner welcomes visits by students to practise their French conversation.
8. **What support will be offered to CLiL students if they find lessons difficult?** Teachers will provide a lot of visual clues, mime and gesture to aid comprehension. We will ask members of the class to translate at times, to check everybody is following and supply key vocabulary lists. Dedicated sixth formers, who speak good French and will assist us in some lessons in developing conversation skills. Students can ask questions in English of course, but as a last resort rather than routinely!
9. **Can a child change tutor group at any time if they don't wish to continue with CLiL?** As with any tutor group changes, changes are not made lightly. First, we would always try to address any problems so that pupils can stay in CLiL and flourish. If, in discussion with parents, tutor and the pastoral leader, it was felt that a change of form was imperative, then a child could change tutor group. This is very rarely necessary, as tutor and tutees form strong bonds.