



2021 begins at Midhurst Rother College

Following the Prime Minister's announcement of a National Lockdown, plans for 2021 at Midhurst Rother College had to be swiftly changed with facilities for online live lessons, other remote learning and access to the College for vulnerable and keyworker children put in place.

Previously during the Spring lockdown, the students worked hard and made excellent progress in their learning despite the challenging conditions of working remotely from home. They were greatly supported in this throughout the period by not only the College, but also their parents and carers for which the College is very thankful. With the new lockdown, this is now being repeated with the same determination as last time.

Each child is receiving work for every lesson on their regular timetable. All students are expected to complete all work for each lesson and participation is closely monitored. Taking advantage of the technology available today and the skills of their incredible members of staff, some teaching will be live via Microsoft Teams giving students the opportunity to interact both with teachers and members of their class. Students will also be able to submit all their work online allowing teachers to mark and give feedback via this system. It is the College's intention that all children should have equal access to remote learning. To support families without sufficient technology resources to study remotely, last term the College distributed over 240 Chromebooks to support students without internet access.

"Learning from home can be challenging because of all the distractions and sometimes technical issues, but the College have played a big part in helping us focus and do the best we possibly can from home, by live lessons and daily check-ins through tutors on how we are doing." Freya B Yr11

During the lockdown period the College remains open for the vulnerable and keyworker children, of which there are over 100, and these children are supported in their learning tasks by members of the College staff. To reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19, mass testing is now in place for all staff and students entering the College premises during this period. College staff and local volunteers have been trained to deliver the testing on site. As the Prime Minister inferred in his announcement, this lockdown is to be for the shortest possible time that it can be. With the hard work and careful plans put into place by the College, we remain optimistic that we will come out of this and through providing effective continuity of learning now, students of Midhurst Rother College will not be disadvantaged.



Year 10 GCSE Drama Pantomimes

This year the Year 10 Drama students had to adapt to the changing times with performing their Pantomimes via streamed performances! The class worked on two Pantomimes this year over the Autumn term, Cinderella and Aladdin. Both groups worked in lessons and in their own time to develop and prepare performances that not only had to consider social distancing but also lack of an audience.



Year 10 were amazing in developing and producing the Pantomimes,



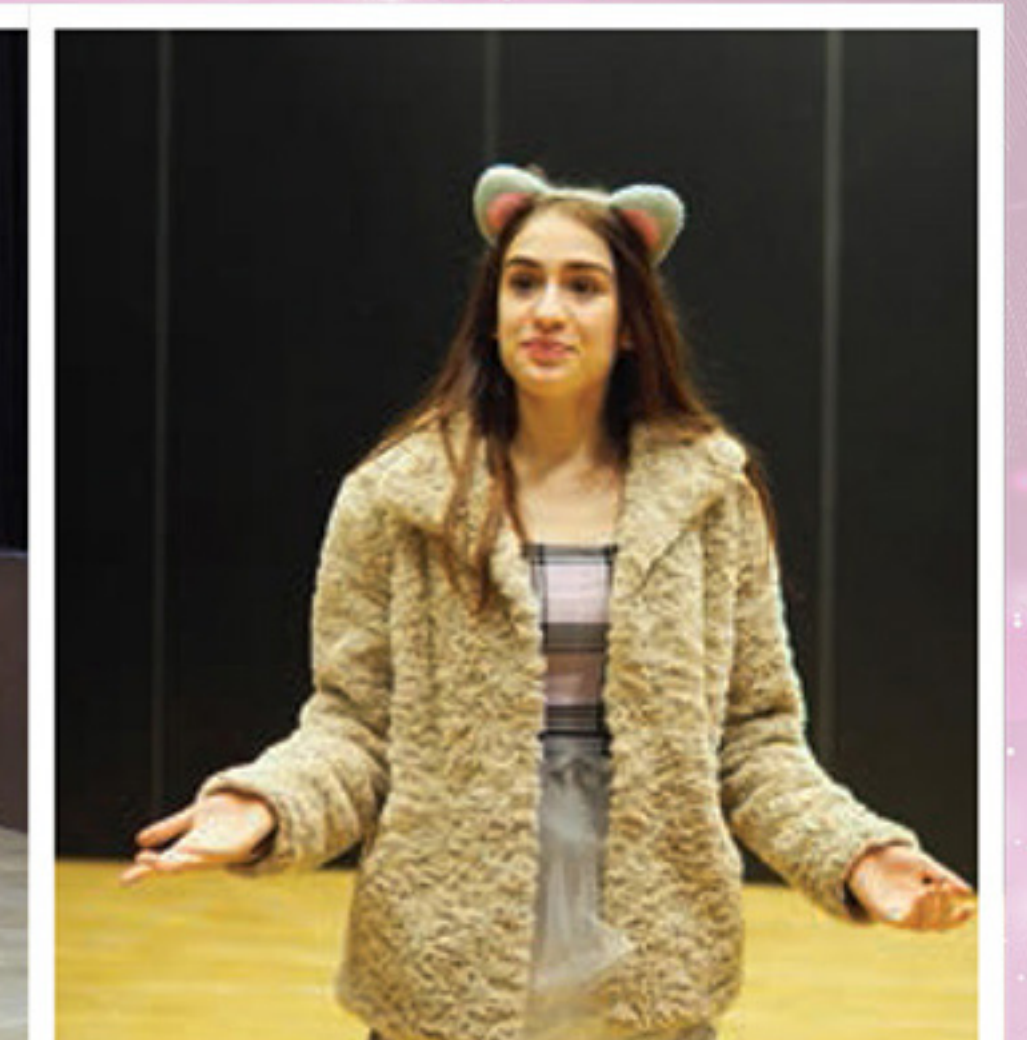
made up from scratch! They sourced their own costumes, music, props and set to bring these to life in a hilarious day of laughter and performing. Performances were shown to Mrs Strachan and



Miss Parker and also to the Year 10 GCSE Drama students on the day. It was then streamed to parents and primary schools. We hope they all enjoyed the performances as much as we did.

Well done Year 10 GCSE Drama, you were all amazing :)

(special thanks go to Elliot G in Year 12 who helped us with lighting the Pantomimes and giving up his time to do this :)





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Food for All

Back in Autumn 2020 the College Community set itself a target of collecting 1000kg of essential food and goods by July 2021 for the Midhurst Foodbank to help local families in need.



Planning to hold a Foodbank Friday at the end of each half term, the College thought this was an ambitious target. At the end of October, the first appeal gathered almost 165kg of food and goodies including boxes of chocolates, biscuits - sweet and savoury, along with desserts and the regular basics which help to keep the shelves filled and are gratefully received as the weather gets colder.

Liz Willing, Co-ordinator of Midhurst Foodbank was astonished to see such a collection. For the pre-Christmas appeal the College asked families if they would donate "something special" so the Foodbank could add a little something to the essential items in Christmas



deliveries and add a little extra to the Christmases of those in need of their help. On the day of collection an incredible 100 carrier bags containing 375.2kg of goods including a wide variety of seasonal treats for the festive season were handed over to the Foodbank.

The College have gathered 540kg of their 1000kg target of goods since September. The next appeal is due for mid-February. How this works will depend on the lockdown situation....

Midhurst Foodbank supports the residents of the town as well as some of the surrounding villages. Last week, we responded to requests on each day of the working week. They are a team of about 60 volunteers, who depend on donations, as well as supplies from the Chichester Trussell Trust to meet these needs.



THE ARTS SOCIETY & MRC

Huge congratulations are in order for Anna S-T in our Sixth Form for being selected to exhibit her work in the very prestigious exhibition run by The Arts Society. She secured her place by being nominated by the Midhurst Arts Society, who submitted her work for consideration in The RBA Star Students Competition 2020-2021. Anna's piece is entitled **Contrast-Foil**, white pencil on black card.

Due to the impact of Covid-19 and the new restrictions it means, unfortunately, that the planned exhibitions at the Mall and Royal Over-Seas League (ROSL) have had to be postponed indefinitely.

The Arts Society will instead be mounting an online exhibition of all 20 selected artworks on our Arts Society Connected website by the end of January. They are also working with ROSL to put together an online exhibition and liaising with the RBA to investigate the possibility of an online exhibition with the Mall Galleries. In this way they will be able to show and celebrate the exceptional talent and skill of these young artists. If circumstances permit, a physical exhibition may go ahead later in the year.

"Anna is a very talented art student. I am very proud but not surprised that her work has been chosen for the exhibition." Mrs K Murray-Killen. Art Teacher



CLEAN UP AND CREATE

Midhurst Rother College ran a house competition at the start of the Autumn Term where students had to create a poster/sculpture to support cleaner oceans, reduction of pollution etc. We had 125 internal entries and all of them were entered into the South Downs competition which was the same, but open to a wider range of age groups and the local community. For more information go to: [Clean-upCreateArt - South Downs \(southdownstrust.org.uk\)](https://southdownstrust.org.uk). There were 17 winners, two of whom were from MRC which is fantastic news!

Thijs, Year 7 made a sculpture. The judge said: "This 3-D work really draws the viewer in. I want to explore it, discover it, look around inside and out. A fascinating piece, colourful and with clear messaging to hold the viewer's attention."



Peter, created a poster. The judge said: "A great play on a famous print. I like the artistry here, with the delicate imagery of the careless hand and the simple clear message - "Go plastic free". Thoughtful work. Very well done."



They both won £150!!!



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