



MIDHURST MATTERS



Midhurst Rother College
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Principal's Message

I'd like to start by welcoming you all to another academic year at MRC. I hope you all had a very good summer break.

I am incredibly impressed with the way our students have returned to school and how the Year 7 have started with us. I have visited every classroom in the school on several occasions so far this year and in every case I have seen students engaged, working hard and being kind to each other. It is a real privilege for me to lead the school and to work with your children.

I was very pleased with our examination results in the summer. Our GCSE and A-Level cohorts did incredibly well. Our GCSE results were significantly above national averages and our Sixth Formers are going to some of the very best universities in the country, including Cambridge, Manchester, Exeter and Edinburgh and the Royal School of Music.

Our new Year 7 have settled very well. They already know their way around the building and are rising to the challenge in lessons. This year, students have joined us from over 40 feeder primary schools. It is good to see them all with each other in lessons and at break and lunch where they are making new friendships.

It is a real privilege to lead the school and to work with your children – they are a constant source of optimism, energy and fun. We expect them to be kind, to work hard and be polite at all times. They are meeting these challenges head-on and have made a great start. I tell them in assemblies that no matter how high the bar is, we must always push it higher. It is great to see them doing this.

Have a lovely weekend

Best wishes.

Mr Edwards

Week A | Monday 14 Sept 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Principal's Message
- Diary Dates & House Points
- Notices
- Department News
- Local News/Events
- Facilities for Hire
- Term Dates
- Calendar – Performing Arts
- MRC Vacancies
- Website Links



Fortnightly Ahead

Week A Mon 14 Sept	Year Group 11	GCSE Success Evening, 6 – 7pm
Tue 15 Sept	8 & 9	Parent/Carer Information Evening 6 – 7pm
Wed 16 Sept		
Thurs 17 Sept	7	Welcome Evening 6 – 7pm
Friday 18 Sept		
Week B Mon 21 Sept		
Tue 22 Sept	10	Parent/Carer Information Evening 6 – 7pm
Wed 23 Sept		
Thurs 24 Sept		
Friday 25 Sept		Sponsored Walk Update We would like to let everyone know that the Sponsored Walk planned for 25 September will no longer be going ahead. Instead, we will be organising a range of in-house fundraising activities throughout the year to continue raising money and supporting our fundraising efforts. We look forward to sharing more details about these activities and getting everyone involved!

AUSTEN
5,113

KIPLING
4,459

TENNYSON
5,624

WOOLF
3,896

NOTICES

HANDS UP FOR HOMEWORK!

At MRC, we believe strongly in the benefits of regular homework from the start of Yr7 until the end of Yr13. We want all students to work and learn independently outside lesson times.

- Regular homework helps students consolidate and remember content taught in lessons. It develops students' resilience, independence and thinking skills.
- Regular homework accelerates academic progress. It shows teachers what students have understood fully and what knowledge or concepts may need revising or re-teaching.
- Time-management is a vital skill students must learn for success later life. We don't want students to give up hobbies, sports or leisure in term time; we want them to value their free time and plan carefully when to get the homework done.
- Internal and public exams are part of every child's education. Many adults sit professional exams as well, so learning to revise independently is an important part of the homework cycle at MRC.
- Some homework is done online, some is written by hand. Homework may involve preparatory reading /research, making something or bringing items to class ready for learning (e.g. recipe ingredients, other materials).
- Teachers tell students about the homework in class and record clearly on Arbor what the students are expected to do, resources/websites needed, when it must be done by and how/when to hand in the work. Four or more days should be allowed between setting and completion deadlines.
- In KS3 (yr7-9), students get 1 hour each week in core subjects and 1 hour per fortnight in foundation subjects. This should mean that a student spends 7-9 hours each week on homework. They may choose to do one hour after school each evening and a couple of hours at the weekend or spread it out differently; working out how to structure their time is part of the learning experience.
- In KS4 (yrs10-11), students are expected to do 9-11 hours of homework per week, about one hour per subject studied. KS5/Sixth Form students have much more independent study to do, around 15 hours per week.
- Teachers record positive points on Arbor for good or excellent homework. Negative points and sanctions build up gradually for missed homework tasks. Where managing homework is a struggle across the curriculum or in certain subject areas, Heads of Year and subject teachers will try to help and support students. Lunchtime and afterschool homework clubs are also provided for this purpose.

Please find a summary of internet sites used at MRC for students' homework below ([also available by clicking this link](#)) with instructions on how to log in.

We are very grateful to parents and carers for helping their child settle down somewhere quiet to do their homework and for helping them structure their time. Some homework tasks can be stressful or frustrating for children when they are tired after a busy day at school. So, we strongly advise families to help (younger students especially) anticipate deadlines and avoid leaving work until the last minute. Do contact your child's Head of Year or me (fiona.lunskey@mrc-academy.org) if you have concerns about homework.

Mrs Lunskey

HOMEWORK HELP GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS – SEPT 2026

Everything you need to find homework, access learning platforms and get started.

START HERE: All homework is set on Arbor. Some tasks are completed online; Arbor will tell students which website or platform to use.

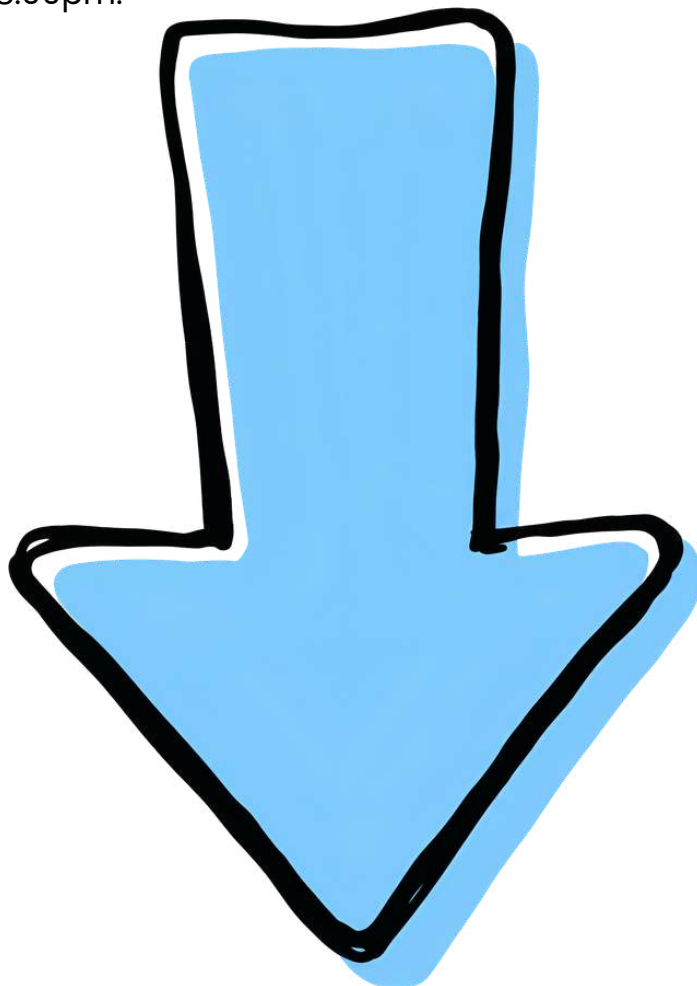
LOGIN DETAILS Some platforms use the student's Microsoft login (school email address + password). Others use subject-specific passwords.

We do recommend that the students save each link to their favourites bar on their home computer with the password saved as well.

Students can also download the Microsoft Office Package (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Outlook etc) from their One Drive.

Chromebook Reminder

Students are reminded that College Chromebooks will automatically shut down from 8.00pm each evening. This means you will not be able to access your Chromebook or complete homework after this time. Please make sure you have completed and saved any work you need before 8.00pm.



NOTICES

Subject	URL	Student Username	Password
Arbor - to access their homework	https://midhurst-rother.uk.arbor.sc/?/home-ui/index/	School email address e.g. joe.smith@mrc-academy.org – DO NOT GOOGLE 'ARBOR' AS IT WON'T LET YOU SIGN IN – you must go via the Arbor link provided here or via our college website link to Arbor.	Student will have set this themselves. Please make a note of it.
One Drive	Home Microsoft 365 (office.com)	Click on the link to take you to Microsoft 365, select the option to log in using 'Microsoft', type their school email address and password.	
Microsoft Office Package	Home Microsoft 365 (office.com)	Log into the One Drive and click on the square of nine dots in the top left-hand corner, then click on 'more apps'. If you then look in the top right-hand corner there is an arrow pointing downwards and it says 'install apps', click on that and start the download.	
Outlook – school emails	Home Microsoft 365 (office.com)	Go to the students One Drive (see above), click on the square of nine dots in the top left-hand corner, then click on 'Outlook'.	
Maths Sparx	Sparx Maths Student Login	Select school first then: Click on the option to log in using Microsoft. Log in with their school email address and password.	
English Sparx Reader	Sparx Reader Login	Click on the option to log in using Microsoft. Log in with their school email address and password.	
Science Sparx	https://app.sparxscience.com	Click on the option to log in using Microsoft. Log in with their school email address and password.	
History/English/Geog /RP Seneca	https://app.senecalearning.com/login	Click on the option to log in using Microsoft. Log in with their school email address and password.	
Music	See links beside your student's year group	Year 7 – Benjamin Britten and The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra: YPC Play – Britten Year 8 – Mendelssohn and A Midsummer Night's Dream: YPC Play – Puck Year 9 – Music Theory Topics and Exercises: musictheory.net – Lessons	No password required.
MFL – Active Hub	ActiveHub	School email address e.g. joe.smith@mrc-academy.org	Happy2023
AEN Dept Lexia – Power UP	Device Setup – PowerUp (lexiapowerup.com)	Log in to 'teacher email' with: lexia@mrc.com , then for username it is your 1st name & initial of surname (e.g. if Joe Smith it will be joes)	Password is 'Year' and the number of your year group (e.g. if you are Year 7 then your password would be 'Year7').

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

We would like to start by saying that it has been an absolute joy to see so many students attending College since the start of term and bringing the building to life. The vast majority of students arrive on time and are ready to learn each and every day. This is something that we obviously want to continue, whilst ensuring that every child is safe and accounted for; and we need your help to guarantee it happens.

Our Approach

Please find a link to a short video which explains our approach to attendance - [Attendance - YouTube](#).

Key Information

Over the years there have been numerous studies on this topic, and the findings all seem to reach the same conclusion - a child who attends school or college has the best chance of success both personally and academically. This infographic, which we use weekly with students, gives you an idea as to how precious time in education actually is.

Diagram

Description automatically generated

Did you know that an attendance figure below 90% classifies a child as being persistently absent? Equally, an attendance figure below 50% would mean that a child is severely absent. These are situations that we wish to avoid in order to maximise the potential of every student here at MRC. The world of attendance also leans heavily into the world of safeguarding, and we uphold the view that attendance is everyone's responsibility, and no child must become a "known unknown" to those responsible for protecting them.



Talk to us

Talk to us is a phrase that we use with students on a daily basis, helping us to help the children in our care (regardless of the subject matter). We now ask you to do the same and encourage you to get in contact with us if you feel that there are long term issues or barriers that are impacting your child's attendance. Our dedicated team of tutors, Heads of Year and the Attendance Team are here to support you and your children - so, talk to us.

Rewards

As part of our daily and weekly routines, we run attendance competitions between form groups, year groups and the four Houses. By simply attending, your child can contribute to the success of these different groups.

All those students whose attendance was at 96% or above by the end of the last academic year will be entered into a prize draw and could win cinema vouchers for a year, a bike, or a Nintendo Switch games console. We will also be running another silent disco for those students who have 100% attendance from Monday 21 September through to Friday 2 October.

Holidays

Headteachers are still unable to grant leave for holidays during school term time. The Secretary of State for Education has stated that all holidays during term time are unauthorised and could be subject to a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN).

The real cost to your child of a holiday in term time is that they miss learning, could become anxious and stressed through falling behind in their work, receive lower test/examination results and miss out on opportunities in the future. Is it worth the price?

Good attendance means that your child will have better chances, better choices and be able to take control of their life.

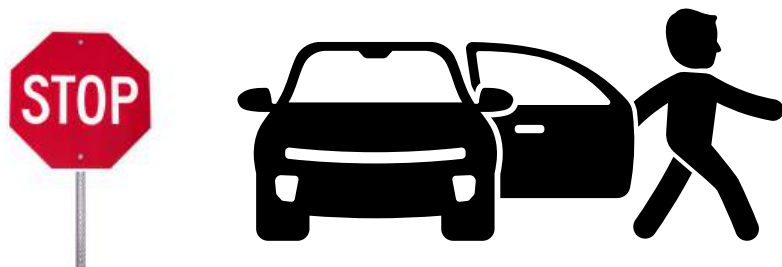
Absence

Please ensure that you communicate with us each day for any/all absences. Report absence via the Arbor Parent Portal or leave a message for the Attendance team on 01730 812451 (select option 1) or make contact via email: attendance@mrc-academy.org.

If your child needs to attend an appointment, please send us a copy of any supporting information such as a medical letter or appointment card. Our website ([Attendance Matters \(mrc-academy.org\)](https://mrc-academy.org)) contains further information, including links to our policies and a link to our student absence request form. You may also find this link useful from the NHS, [Is my child too ill for school?](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/when-to-call-the-doctor/) We work closely with the legislation as laid out in the DfE's [Working together to improve school attendance \(applies from 19 August 2024\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance-19-august-2024.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk)) publication to ensure that we fulfil the government's mandate on attendance and support you and your child.

Thank you for your continued support in relation to all matters related to attendance, and we hope that you agree that attendance really does matter.

The Attendance Team



SAFEGUARDING – STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP REMINDER

To help us keep all of our students safe, we kindly remind parents and carers that drop-offs and pick-ups by car or in person **are not permitted on the College site in the morning, after school and for after school clubs**. We also have a large number of buses that need to come onto site every morning and parental drop-offs on site make our car park sometimes difficult to travel through.

- Students should be dropped off and collected from North Street car park, located behind the Midhurst bus stand.
- Our staff are on duty every morning and after College to support students and ensure their safe passage.
- **If you need to drop off or collect your child directly from the College due to medical reasons, please contact your child's Head of Year to request a car pass.**
- If collecting for appointments or from students reception during the College day, please make the reception aware via the intercom and then make your way to the main reception to collect your child.
- If you are attending a meeting at the College, please check-in at the main reception.

Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our College community safe.



Start your day right – we're offering **free toast, porridge, and cereal every morning** from 8:00am in college! Open to all students, so swing by, fuel up, and get set for the day ahead.



STUDENT RECEPTION

If your child has been prescribed auto-injectors they should be carrying both with them in college.

If they have been prescribed a reliever inhaler this should also be carried with them.



Arbor

ALL YEAR GROUPS – STUDENTS ARBOR PROFILE

If you have not yet checked your child's details on Arbor, please do so as soon as possible and make any amendments so that we have the latest information.

Should you require any help with Arbor, please refer to this [guide](#).

VACANCY

We have the following vacancy available within the college:

Administrator (Finance) 18 hours per week, term time only plus 3 weeks

Please click on this link for more information: [Administrator \(Finance\)](#).

UNIFORM



Midhurst Rother College
The best in everyone™
Part of Oxford Learning

UNIFORM REMINDER

At Midhurst Rother College, we take pride in our smart uniform and the high standards it represents.

Please help us maintain our standards by following the rules.

SIMPLE UNIFORM RULES

- 1 PLAIN STUD ONLY – SIMPLE**
- 2 BADGES – ONLY SCHOOL GIVEN BADGES ALLOWED**

Thank you for your support in helping every student to look smart, feel proud and be ready to learn.

“The best in everyone™”

ART DEPARTMENT



Thank you to the parents who have already paid the voluntary contribution

Year 7
Textiles machine and hand embroidered Tote bag
Clay painted donut
Product design Wooden Bot Block character

Year 8
Product Design Wooden Box
Textiles patchwork cushion machine and hand embroidery

Year 9
Clay textured building tile
Product Design Wooden mechanical toy
Textiles bucket hat

Arbor

It is not too late to support The ADT department! If you haven't had a chance yet, you can still contribute by following the link in the Arbor Shop

£10 per student for all subjects

This support directly helps cover the costs of materials for the amazing work our students have created in clay, wood, and fabric during their ADT lessons



Food & Nutrition – A Hands-On Start to the Term

Our Food & Nutrition students have launched into the new term with fantastic enthusiasm and skill.

Year 8 embraced Italian cuisine by baking beautifully flavoured focaccia, learning how simple ingredients can create something truly special.

Year 10 began their GCSE journey with confidence, producing a batch of bread rolls as they revisited key foundational techniques.

Meanwhile, **Year 7** took their first steps into Cooking and Nutrition by practising essential **knife skills**, preparing colourful **vegetable crudités** served with a refreshing yoghurt dip.

It's been a brilliant start – full of creativity, focus and pride. We look forward to seeing their skills grow throughout the year.

Mrs Emery



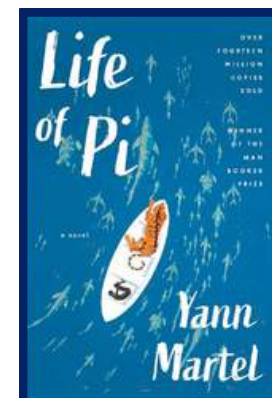
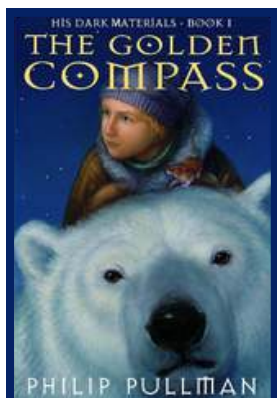
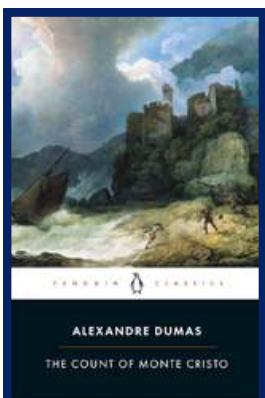
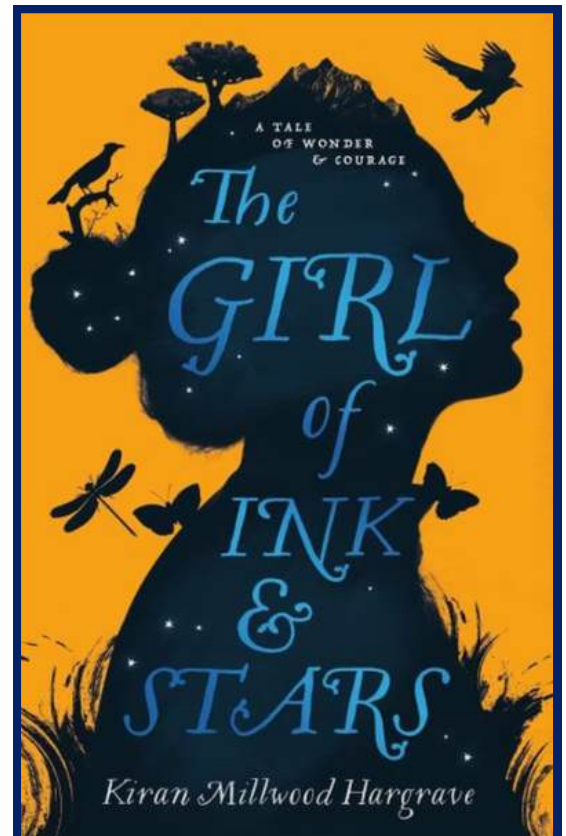
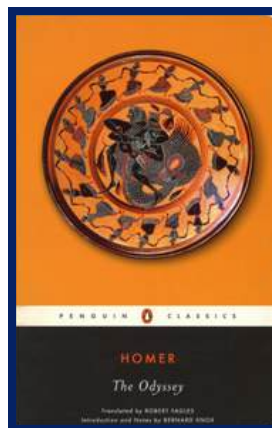
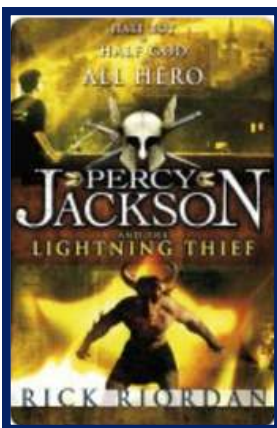
NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

At the start of 2026, The National Year of Reading, we set out to punctuate each month with different reading goals that students could feel inspired by to enjoy a variety of texts and enhance their own book choice:



Our reading theme this September is The Quest. This popular narrative has been a hit throughout the ages, depicting an adventurous central character who heroically faces down often epic challenges in a journey of discovery, whether it's seeking truth, finding an identity or saving a world. For some ideas on the latest releases with a quest at its heart, please use the link below:

[Fantasy books for children and teens | School Reading List](#)



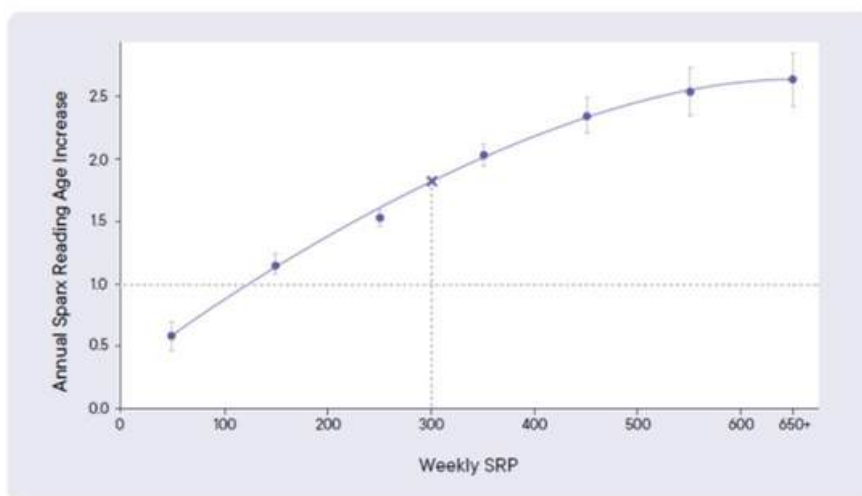
SPARX READER

A reminder that Sparx Reader is the platform for years 7 – 9 for their weekly English homework, which supports each student to increase their reading ability and in turn be better able to access the full curriculum:

1. Strong correlation between reading and progress

In our analysis from June 2025, we found a striking result.

Students who did **30 minutes of careful reading** each term-time week progressed at an average rate of 1.82 years per year: that's **9.8 months' additional progress**.



Weaker readers progressed even faster, and PP students made more progress than non-PP students.

If students engage with their reading, Sparx Reader helps close the gap.

LIBRARY

Don't forget the library is open before school from 8am and closes at 4pm, as well as break and lunch, should students need to use the computers, resources or printer for homework or research.

DEPARTMENT NEWS – CAREERS

CAREERS INTERVIEWS – MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER & MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

The following students have been scheduled to receive a one to one careers interview with our independent careers advisor at the following date and times. The location and time will also be on their Arbor timetable.

Following the interview the students report will be uploaded to their Unifrog account for you to view with them and which you may wish to discuss at home.

Careers Interviews – Monday 14 September		Tutor Gp	Period	To go to:
Wright	I	10T-BCR	REG (08:30) – 09:10	W003
Wallis Hughes	B	10A-IHD	09:10 – 09:52 (p1)	W003
Sturgess	J	10A-IHD	10:00 – 10:42 (p2)	W003
Smail	N	10A-IHD	11:10 – 11:52 (p3)	W003
Simpson	F	10A-IHD	12:00 – 12:46 (p4)	W003
Proudlove	S	10A-IHD	13:30 – 14:11 (p5)	W003
Merlos	R	10A-IHD	14:15 – 15:05 (p6)	W003
Careers Interviews – Monday 21 September		Tutor Gp	Period	To go to:
Hawkins	B	11K-DSS	REG (08:30) – 09:10	T012
Haworth	E	11T-JWE	09:10 – 09:52 (p1)	T012
Hunt	O	11K-DSS	10:00 – 10:42 (p2)	T012
Jones	S	11W-KNS	11:10 – 11:52 (p3)	T012
Lee	J	11K-DSS	12:00 – 12:46 (p4)	T012
Porter	L	11K-DSS	13:30 – 14:11 (p5)	T012
Allaker	E	11A-ABN	14:15 – 15:05 (p6)	T012

teamwork | respect | enjoyment

discipline | sportsmanship



FAO: School Head

Ref: Local Club Rugby Taster Introduction

Midhurst Rugby Football Club are holding a taster rugby introduction morning for our Mini and Junior sections on Sunday 13th September 2026 from 10-12noon, with BBQ and inflatable games after. This is designed for kids from Under 6 to Under 14s to come along and learn more about the sport and see what we do as a club at the different age groups. There will be no pressure to join in, kids can simply watch as our trained coaches lead a demonstration training session for each of the age groups. The coaches will start with a short introduction about what happens at that particular age group as rugby rules differ as you move through the age grades, then give a demonstration of typical training session followed by short game.

Coaches and members of the club will be available to field any questions from parents and guardians; we know this to be particularly important for any children who may be new to the sport.

It should be noted that U6-U8 Age groups are tag (touch rugby), at U9s tackling is introduced, but this is phased in gradually and no first-time child players will be expected to take part in tackle training or games at any age grade until the coaches are satisfied that they are ready to do so.

After the short introduction the BBQ and fun inflatable games will take place from 11am with free hot dogs to all children and the club house will be open serving drinks and snacks.

Midhurst RFC is a small club serving the local community with a fantastic youth programme where we have hundreds of kids turn up on Sundays throughout the season. The club is supported by a fantastic bunch of volunteers and trained coaches who give up their time to support. The coaches are all passionate about the sport and the safety of the children under their care is paramount. We are a fully inclusive club and welcome new players and supporters alike.

We look forward to seeing you at the club and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Paul Dunn – Club Chairman

www.midhurstrugby.co.uk
midhurstrugbyfootballclub@gmail.com

Midhurst RFC
The Pavillion
Cowdray Ruins
Midhurst GU29 9AL



MINI & JUNIOR RUGBY OPEN MORNING



SUNDAY
13TH
SEPTEMBER



10 AM -
12 NOON



MIDHURST RFC
COWDRAY RUINS

FREE
RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS

BOYS & GIRLS
AGED 5-16

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED



- *BOUNCY CASTLE*
- *BBQ & BAR*
- *ICE CREAM VAN*
- *MEET THE TEAMS*
- *FAMILY FUN*

YOUNGER CHILDREN
WELCOME TO STAY & PLAY!

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME
AT ANY SUNDAY TRAINING SESSION
YOU DON'T NEED TO WAIT
FOR THE OPEN DAY.

EVERYONE WELCOME - NO NEED
TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP.



BLACKDOWN HILL CHALLENGE



A **10K** fell race with **856ft+/-** of elevation gain summiting at Temple of the Winds, Blackdown.

In addition to the challenging climb & descent the route also provides outstanding views across Sussex, Surrey and Hampshire.

We will also offer a less challenging 4.5km trail race for adults.



18th October 2026

enter at www.midhurstmilers.org

The Pavilion, Fernhurst Recreation Ground GU27 3HY

151Ft
ASCENT

JUNIOR BLACKDOWN

MIDHURST MILERS HILL CHALLENGE MIDHURST MILERS



Come & join us for our junior fell race
through the foot hills of Blackdown.

2km & 5km distances available.

Or represent your school in the school team competition.



18th October 2026

enter at www.midhurstmilers.org

The Pavilion, Fernhurst Recreation Ground GU27 3HY



NETBALL PLACES FOR ALL

BUGS
NETBALL CLUB

QUALITY COACHING BY QUALIFIED AND INSPIRING TEAM

We are currently looking for new players
in all junior age groups.
This season we are playing in
local and county leagues.

TRAINING TIMES

SATURDAYS The Edge, Woolmer Hill, GU27 1QB 09:00 - 13:00	THURSDAYS Midhurst Rother College, GU29 9DT 18:30 - 19:30
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**BY INVITATION:
PERFORMANCE TRAINING
WEDNESDAYS**

The Petersfield School,
GU32
18:30 - 20:00

CONTACT US!



Bugsnetballclub@hotmail.com



07745 110119



Reply

AUTUMN TERM 2026

Friday 2 October	Inset Day
Monday 26 Oct - Friday 30 Oct	Half Term
Friday 27 November	Inset Day
Friday 18 December	Last Day of Term

Thursday 12 March

Coming soon...

MRC VACANCIES AND WEBSITE LINKS

VACANCIES AT MIDHURST ROTHER COLLEGE

Please click on the following link for the latest vacancies at MRC:

<https://www.mrc-academy.org/about-us/vacancies>

HELPFUL MRC WEBSITE LINKS

SAFEGUARDING, Wellbeing and Mental Health - ([Click here](#))

Selfcare Newsletter - ([Click here](#))

Arbor Information Guides: Arbor Information Guides ([mrc-academy.org](https://www.mrc-academy.org))

Arbor Link: Midhurst Rother College ([arbor.sc](https://www.arbor.sc))

College Calendar: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/calendar>

Homework: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/curriculum/homework>

Letters: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/communication/letters>

Educational Visits: Midhurst Rother College > Communication > Letters ([mrc-academy.org](https://www.mrc-academy.org))

Staff Emails: <https://bit.ly/StaffEmailAddress>

Term Dates: Midhurst Rother College > Information > College Term dates ([mrc-academy.org](https://www.mrc-academy.org))

School Cloud: <https://midhurst.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Sparx Maths: <https://www.sparxmaths.uk/student>

Sparx Reader: [Sparx Reader](#)

Lexia POWERUP Literacy - Login and Student Program: Device Setup - PowerUp
([lexiapowerup.com](https://www.lexiapowerup.com))

Past editions of Midhurst Matters Newsletter - Midhurst Matters ([mrc-academy.org](https://www.mrc-academy.org))