



MIDHURST MATTERS



Week B | Monday 19 January 2026

Head Boy/Head Girl Message

Welcome to the first Midhurst Matters of 2026! We are incredibly grateful to Mr Edwards for kindly giving us the opportunity to introduce ourselves as the new Head Boy and Head Girl. It is a real honour to take on these roles, and we are very much looking forward to working with students, staff, and the wider school community over the coming year.



HEAD BOY

Hi, I'm Sam and am so proud to call myself MRC's new Head Boy!

There were amazing other candidates so am thrilled that the panel trusted me with this responsibility. I joined MRC in Year 7 and throughout my time have felt supported in my academic journey and have been given some incredible opportunities. I have felt my achievements have been recognised and that I have been supported when things haven't gone quite so well. I am excited for the chance to give something back to the College that has already given me so much.

Outside of College I am an active member of the Royal Air Force Air Cadets, which has given me a wide range of challenging opportunities and experiences.

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I am going to bring all my experience gained from Air Cadets to help contribute to making MRC an even more positive experience for students and represent the school whenever needed. I look forward to working with Aurora and can't wait to start making a difference and contributing to this outstanding College!



HEAD GIRL

Hello everyone! My name is Aurora, and I am honoured to introduce myself as your new Head Girl. I am incredibly grateful to be given this position, and I am excited to represent our college community over the coming year.

As Head Girl, I want to be someone who listens, supports others, and most importantly represent everyone fairly. I'm passionate about working with both students and staff to make our college even more inclusive, supportive, and inspiring for everyone. Sam and I look forward to listening to your ideas, and we promise to do our best to be positive role models.

I would like to say thank you to the fabulous ex Head Boy and Girl, Ben and Kelly and wish them well in their upcoming exams this year.

Thank you for this amazing opportunity - I can't wait to get started.

Thank you.



DIARY DATES AND HOUSE POINTS

Fortnightly Ahead

Week B Mon 19 Jan	Year Group 10 11 7 & 8	Classroom based exams this week Science exams in class this week Cross Country House Competition
Tues 20 Jan	11 11	English Exam Chemistry Exam
Wed 21 Jan	11 11 12 & 13	Biology Exam Food Exam Economics Visit to Houses of Parliament
Thurs 22 Jan	9	Options Evening 5.30pm - 7pm
Fri 23 Jan		
Week A Mon 26 Jan	10 11	Classroom based exams this week Exams continue this week
Tues 27 Jan		
Wed 28 Jan	9, 10 & 11 7 & 8	UK inter Maths Challenge in Theatre Area Cross Country Event
Thurs 29 Jan	11	Final Push Evening
Fri 30 Jan		



NOTICES

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING – THURSDAY 22 JANUARY 2026, 5.30PM – 7.00PM

Our key focus at Midhurst Rother College is to make sure our Year 9 students are well prepared for their future and that they can achieve their very best examination results. This is an exciting time in their secondary education and choosing their courses for years 10 and 11 is a big decision. There will be an options booklet available on the school website from Monday 19 January, which will help students make informed and mature choices. Please find below the timeline for these choices:

GCSE Options Timeline 2026-27

Date:	Options process:
Thursday 22 January @ 5:30 – 7:00	Launch of Option process.
From Friday 23 January	Parents/Carers can email: Options@mrc-academy.org to ask questions.
Monday 2 February -12 February	Exam series for all subjects
Friday 26 February	Tracking point data for all subjects available
Thursday 5 March	Parents' Evening – parents/carers will be able to ask teachers/ <u>HoDs</u> any final questions.
Friday 13 March	Options form submitted to <u>Mr Jack Clements</u>

We look forward to seeing Year 9 students and parents/carers on Thursday 22 January.

If you have any questions regarding this evening or process, please email Mr Clements in the first instance, jack.clements@mrc-academy.org.

Dr Jessop

CAREERS

As you make your Year 9 option choices, remember what we learned at the BBC Bitesize event about how subjects can link to your future career paths – choosing subjects you enjoy and that support your interests can help open doors later on.

If you're unsure or want more information about how different subjects connect to jobs and industries, be sure to explore the BBC Bitesize Careers website at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers> for helpful guidance. In addition, make use of your Unifrog account to research careers, explore pathways, and plan your next steps. You can access Unifrog at www.unifrog.org, and simply sign in using the Microsoft SSO option with your school email and password.

NOTICES

KS3 & KS4 ASSESSMENT DIARY

Week beginning : 19 January 2026

At MRC students in KS3 sit two assessments per year, Year 10 sit three and Year 11 sitting more, especially in core subjects, to help preparations for GCSE exams in the summer. These assessments support students to reflect on their progress, provide opportunities to practice and prepare for KS4 GCSE assessments in a 'low stakes' situation, provide teachers with an objective and comprehensive piece of work to judge students progress and an opportunity to report to parents/carers an accurate measure of their child's academic progress. These assessments cannot be 'failed' and simply give us all an indication of progress and attainment in different subjects – for many an encouragement, for a few some motivation to commit to hard work and progress.

Assessments are coming up for the following year groups:

- **Year 11:** Science and English assessments on Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 January – Internal assessments in the Theatre straight back after half-term.
- **Year 10:** in class assessments this week (19 January 2026 onwards).
- **Year 9:** in class assessments for all subjects (except English, mathematics, science and MFL) in the fortnight beginning 2 February 2026.
- **Year 8:** in class assessments for all subjects (except English, mathematics, science and MFL) in the fortnight beginning 23 February 2026.
- **Year 7:** Parents Evening on 12 February 2026 (in person).

If they have not already, over the next week or two, class teachers will be sharing details of forthcoming assessments with your child, including the length of assessment, type of questions, topics that will be in the assessment and some revision activities that will be useful to help your child prepare. This will be available on Arbor as an assignment.

Additional information and revision guidance can be found on the college website (<https://www.mrc-academy.org/curriculum/revision-resources>) at any time; this page provides useful ideas and strategies to support independent and effective revision by any child at any time.

Experience shows us that students who are well rested, have had a good breakfast and are properly prepared with the right equipment experience less stress and anxiety before assessments, and perform better. We thank you for supporting your child in their preparation.

We are also mindful that these assessments can create a degree of stress and anxiety. We do not want our students to feel overwhelmed – please do contact your Head of Year for support and advice should this be the case.

NOTICES

TALK CONSENT YEAR 7-9 ASSEMBLY, YEAR 10 & 12 WORKSHOPS

We are committed to providing high-quality Relationships and Sex Education that helps students develop respect, empathy, and an understanding of healthy relationships. As part of this commitment, Midhurst Rother College is excited to welcome back Talk Consent to deliver important sessions to our students. Talk Consent will be visiting the school on 19 January and 23 January 2026. During these dates, they will deliver an assembly for Years 7–9 and run targeted workshops for Year 10 and Year 12.

Sexual violence is a serious issue, particularly among young people, and education plays a vital role in tackling this problem. These sessions will help students understand the importance of consent, challenge harmful attitudes, and promote positive, respectful relationships. Topics will include the right to safe and healthy relationships, the impact of sexual violence, and how to ensure consent is clear and respectful.

About Talk Consent

Talk Consent is a nationally recognised organisation that provides age-appropriate, engaging education designed to prevent sexual violence. Their sessions are interactive, relatable, and delivered by trained facilitators who create a safe environment for discussion. They have worked with over 325 schools across England and are trusted for their effective approach.

Year 7 – 9 Consent Assembly, 19 January 2026

During this assembly, the focus is on helping students understand the importance of boundaries and empowering them to uphold their own. The meaning of consent is introduced in an age-appropriate way.

This consent assembly covers:

- What personal boundaries are.
- How we can communicate assertively versus passively or aggressively and why that is important.
- What consent means.
- How someone might be affected if something is done without their consent and how they can receive support if that happens.

NOTICES

Year 12 Consent Workshops, 19 January 2026

This workshop helps students understand how relationships and sexual activity are not about "getting consent", but about ensuring equal positivity. Talk Consent facilitate discussions around how we can aim for that.

This workshop covers:

- Going beyond legal consent and making sure any sexual activity is safe and a positive experience for everyone involved.
- How we can prioritise safety, care, respect, and communication in relationships & sexual activity.
- How communication might work in reality as well as the importance of being attentive to a partner.

Year 10 Active Bystander Workshops, 23 January 2026

This workshop is focused on understanding and tackling attitudes & beliefs that lead to sexual abuse, with a particular focus on misogyny and sexual harassment.

The workshop will cover:

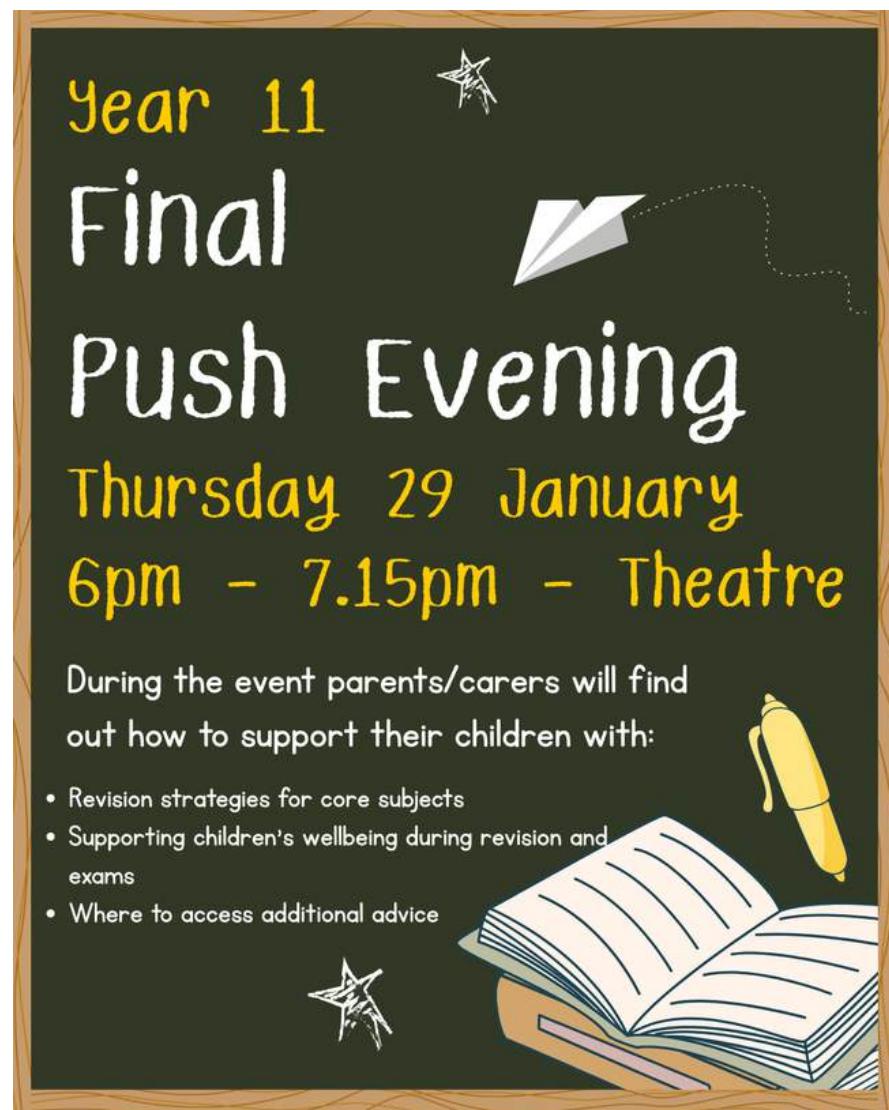
- The prevalence of sexual harassment amongst young people.
- The impact of sexual harassment on victims.
- The negative impact sexual harassment and sexism can have on cultures and friendship groups.
- How we can challenge it when we see it.

As a school community, we are committed to working in partnership with parents. If you would like to find out more or discuss any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me: ashley.lamb@mrc-academy.org.



Talk Consent.

Education to End Sexual Violence.



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

DAILY EQUIPMENT – READY TO LEARN

Essentials: with students every day, every lesson

- 2 x Pens
- 2 x Green Pens
- 2 x Pencils
- Whiteboard Pens
- Eraser
- Ruler
- Scientific Calculator

Desirables: ideal for students to have with them

- Sharpener
- Coloured Pencils
- Highlighters
- Glue Stick
- Geometry Set
- Pencil Case

**BRAVE
THE
SHAVE**

WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT

**RAFFLE
SHAVE MR
LAMB'S
HEAD!**

 Raffle tickets & wristbands available:
• At break & lunch in the Hub
• During tutor time

Don't miss it! 

Pay just £1 to be entered into the raffle for a chance to shave Mr Lamb's head!

 MONDAY 9 FEB 2026
THEATRE - LUNCHTIME



IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE CLICK HERE

NOTICES

THANK YOU FROM CHICHESTER DISTRICT FOODBANK

On behalf of the Chichester District Foodbank Team, I want to say a huge thank you for your amazing support over the past year.

In 2025, you generously donated 259.5 kg of provisions – that's around 649 meals!

Your kindness really does make a difference, and means so much to us and the people we support across Chichester District.

How your support makes an impact

Thanks to you, we can continue offering essential support to families and individuals in crisis across the Chichester District. And it's not just about the food. Your generosity frees up resources that let us provide extra help, like practical guidance and a caring, listening ear when it's needed most. As a largely volunteer-run charity, every donation makes a real difference, and yours is truly appreciated.

Last year, we were able to provide emergency food parcels to over 6,000 people, with 38% of them being children. These numbers show just how important your support is to our community.

Thank you again for your generosity and for being such an important part of what we do. You truly help make a real difference, and we hope to work with you again in 2026!

OUR NEXT COLLECTION AT MRC WILL BE BEFORE EASTER

AFTER CHRISTMAS CLEAR-OUTS – AEN DEPARTMENT

If you've had an after-Christmas clear-out and have any of the following items in good, safe condition, our AEN Dept would be very grateful for donations:

- Yoga mats
- Vibration plate (exercise machine)
- Fidget toys (e.g. stress balls, pop-its, sensory fidgets)
- Trampette (safety bar preferred)
- Beanbags/comfy seats/chairs
- Lava lamp/colour changing lamp
- Indoor plants (faux)
- Cushions

Any donations would be greatly appreciated and can be dropped off to our main reception during school hours.

Thank you for your support.



DEPARTMENT NEWS – MFL

ADVENT ADVENTURES 2025

To end the autumn term in festive style, we accompanied 51 students (from Year 11 and Sixth Form) to Germany last month.

Our trip to Cologne and the Rhine Valley region was packed with visits, activities and sightseeing. We began with a trip to the town of Leverkusen for a very detailed, guided tour of the Bayer Leverkusen football stadium. The tour and the gift shop delighted football fans in the group. Then we travelled back to Cologne to get to know the city by walking through the old town, packed with visitors at the Christmas markets, before climbing the cathedral tower (well, most of us did that!), for amazing views of the city both sides of the river Rhine. Once back down the very narrow staircase of 824 steps, we walked over the Hohenzollern Bridge, past thousands of tiny padlocks, secured there by romantic couples, to a more modern part of town – Köln-Deutz.

Here we ascended the Triangle Building, this time by lift, to look back the other way, to see wonderful views over the cathedral and old town as the city lit up at dusk with Christmas lights. Traffic around Cologne is very hectic during Advent so it was best to walk back through town to our hostel at Neumarkt. That evening, we went to the beautifully lit Market of the Angels (Engelmarkt) where everyone could order their own supper, from Wurst, to pizza, goulasch, pancakes, chips or noodles – to mention but a few of the foods on offer.

The next day we made a whole day excursion travelling south down the “romantische Strasse”, a scenic route southwards along the Rhine, passing through pretty towns and villages as far as Rüdesheim. First, we were shown around the Marksburg Castle, high above Koblenz, by very knowledgeable guides. The interior is so interesting but sadly the amazing views were obscured by heavy clouds. The students then had fun with the Christmas gift challenge in the Rüdesheim market, finding funny presents for staff with some euros provided; Mr Edwards was especially pleased with his knitted snowman, a mascot for his muster group throughout the trip (when staff frequently count all pupils in their mini-groups!).

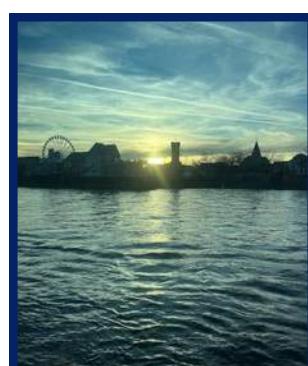
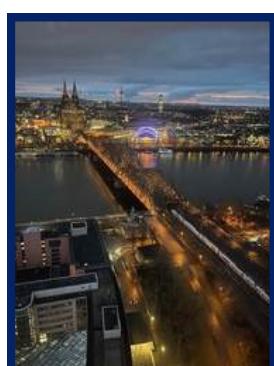
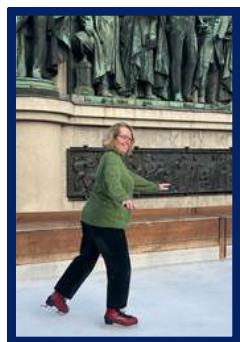
On our way back to Cologne, we stopped at the Ehrenbreitstein fortress above Koblenz to take the cable car down to “Deutsches Eck”, a famous promontory which bears a huge monument dedicated to the Kaiser’s unification of Germany into one country in 1871. This land sits just where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. Before widespread railways and Autobahn, rivers were of great strategic importance for trade and communications, shaping national borders and connecting people.

Our last whole day was spent in Cologne, touring the Lindt chocolate museum, skating outside at Heumarkt and shopping at the biggest Christmas market before boarding ship for our Rhine Advent Cruise. Whilst enjoying apple strudel and hot chocolate, we were treated to lots of Europop as well traditional songs and poems lead on stage by Father Christmas, the “Weihnachtsmann”.

DEPARTMENT NEWS – MFL

As usual, that evening, the students could come out with us to visit just one more Christmas market or stay indoors with friends and some staff to play pool or socialise in the lobby. Next morning, we left early to ensure we could catch the 2pm ferry (from Dunkirk to Dover), all keen to be driving home for Christmas! Staff and students arrived back tired but happy to have packed so much fun, learning, food, history and friendship into five days. We hope MRC will enjoy another Christmas markets trip again soon.

Thanks to Mr Edwards, Ms Charpentier, Mr Burton, Mrs Silverthorne, Mrs Down and Mrs Lunskey for giving their time to accompany this trip abroad.



DEPARTMENT NEWS – MFL

KIND HOST FAMILIES NEEDED FOR MAY 2026

The MFL Department has a keen group of 25 students travelling to Midhurst's twin town in March. They will stay with exchange partners and their families and be immersed in French life and culture for a few days.

Midhurst and Nogent-Le-Rotrou have been twin town for over 70 years and we are proud to continue this local tradition which promotes international friendship and cultural understanding.

The bi-lingual class from the lycée in Nogent will visit us in May. The group arrive on Monday afternoon, 11 May and leave on the morning of Friday 15 May. Some of the students going on the Exchange are not able to host a visitor at their home so we are looking for other MRC families who could welcome a visitor for four nights. The French students will be between 15 and 17 years old, reasonably fluent in English (as they study English intensively) and keen to experience family life in England. They are occupied each day with excursions organised by their teachers, as well as day with us in college.

A guest at your home just requires friendly hosts and meals plus they would not require their own separate bedroom or bathroom, they can share.

We look forward to hearing from you if you can help, please email fiona.lunskey@mrc-academy.org.



CROSS COUNTRY

YEAR 7 AND 8 HOUSE COMPETITION



2:15-3:05
PERIOD 6

EARN
HOUSE POINTS



NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NEEDED

DATE
19.01.26

MEET AT BACK
FIELD

EMAIL AARON.HANCOCK@MRC-ACADEMY.ORG

Choreography Cup Auditions



Dance studio Lunchtime



Years 7-9

11th February

Check tutor slides for more details

Choreography Cup Auditions

You may enter as a
solo/duet/trio/group piece

Years 7-9

The top 3 will be chosen to
perform in the
choreography cup where the
winner will be announced

You must choose ONE of the following **STIMULI** to base your dance on:

- 1) light and dark
- 2) gravity
- 3) the painting below



DEPARTMENT NEWS – FOOD TECHNOLOGY



YEAR 7 – OFF TO A FRESH START

Our new Year 7s have jumped straight into Food this term by creating colourful crudités while learning essential knife skills. From the bridge hold to the claw grip, students showed fantastic focus and growing confidence as they prepared a rainbow of vegetables.

A brilliant start to their practical journey – we can't wait to see their skills develop over the year.



YEAR 8 – RISING BAKERS

What an incredible start to the term!

Our Year 8s started straight into practical skills with focaccia bread-making.

From skills such as kneading soft dough to the science behind yeast. It's amazing to see their confidence grow at the end of the lesson!



YEAR 11 – HIT THE GROUND RUNNING!

Our Hospitality & Catering students returned to school and went straight into their GCSE-equivalent practical exam – and they absolutely smashed it!

Working with calm focus, every student produced two high-quality dishes and still found the time and discipline to leave their workstations spotless.

A huge well done to our brilliant Year 11s. Your hard work, professionalism and resilience really shone during the exam.

DEPARTMENT NEWS – READING

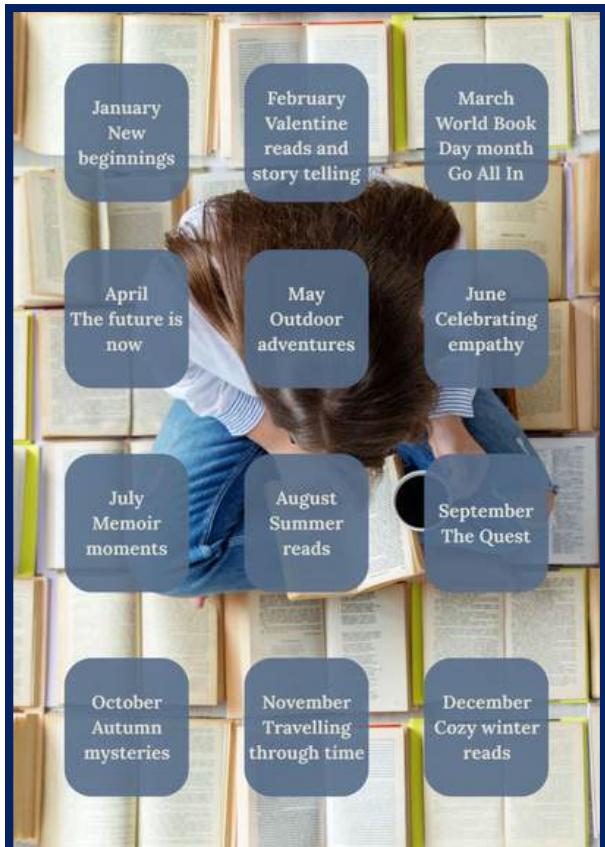
NEW STOCK

To start MRC's 'New beginnings' part of the National Year of Reading, we have just taken delivery of some exciting new titles, as shown in the picture, which are available in the library now.



NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

This year as part of the [National Year of Reading 2026 | Go All In](#) we will be focusing on a different theme each month. There will be library events, peer recommendations, competitions, author events and lots of reading and talking about books. More details to follow...



COFFEE & TALK

JOIN US FOR
MRC
COFFEE & TALK
READING INTERVENTION
TUESDAY 3 FEB 9.30AM - 10.30AM

A cup of coffee with 'INVITATION ONLY' written in the foam. The background shows a landscape with mountains.

WE ARE EXCITED TO SAY THAT WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR FIRST 2026 READING INTERVENTION AND COFFEE MORNING FOR PARENTS.

ATTENDANCE WILL BE BY INVITATION FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS WHO ARE IN READING INTERVENTION GROUPS.

THIS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE LIBRARY BETWEEN 9.30AM AND 10.30AM. COFFEE AND PASTRIES WILL BE PROVIDED.

THE SESSION WILL BE FOCUSED ON SHARING SPECIFIC STRATEGIES THAT YOU CAN DO AT HOME TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S READING AND TO DISCUSS YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS IN THEIR CURRENT READING INTERVENTION SESSIONS.

PLEASE DO COME ALONG AND SUPPORT IF YOU CAN.

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

Book cover for 'Shelter' by Harlan Coben. The cover features a group of people in a dark, mysterious setting. Text on the cover includes: 'ONE GREAT MYSTERY UNLOCKS ANOTHER', 'DANGEROUS SECRETS', 'SHOCKING TWISTS', 'NOW AN ORIGINAL SERIES prime', 'NETFLIX & PRIME', 'YOU'LL NEVER GUESS THE ENDING', and 'HARLAN COBEN'.

DEPARTMENT NEWS – READING

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING

As part of our push on The National Year Of Reading here at MRC, our grammar stream students will have 52 reading challenges for 2026. Their English teachers and tutors are very much looking forward to hearing about what books they have read and reading their book reviews.

The image shows a girl with long dark hair, wearing a purple shirt and blue jeans, sitting cross-legged on a grassy hillside. She is reading a red book. In front of her is a stack of several books of different colors (green, red, blue). The background is a lush green hillside with trees and a clear blue sky.

THE 52 BOOK CLUB'S
2026 Reading Challenge

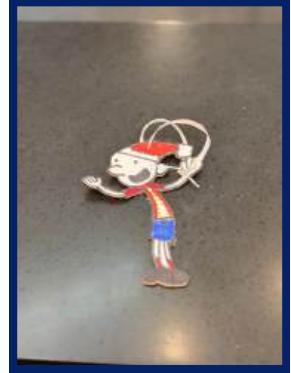
- 1. Set in an ancient civilization
- 2. Kangaroo word on the cover
- 3. Written without quotation marks
- 4. Has a dust jacket
- 5. Featuring a conspiracy
- 6. Title starts with the letter "O"
- 7. Title starts with the letter "P"
- 8. A three-syllable word in the title
- 9. Featuring a natural disaster
- 10. Spans a decade or more
- 11. Requires suspension of disbelief
- 12. A genre-defining read
- 13. Bookface
- 14. Includes a character list
- 15. Subtitle with a comma
- 16. Deus Ex Machina
- 17. Author's bio mentions their dog
- 18. Provokes strong emotion
- 19. A nosy neighbour character
- 20. Day of the week in the title
- 21. Written in the 1800s
- 22. Spotted in a TV series or movie
- 23. Grumpy sunshine trope
- 24. Uneven number of chapters
- 25. Includes a red herring
- 26. Title in a serif font
- 27. Two or more authors, one pseudonym
- 28. From a series at least eight books long
- 29. Set in the Arctic or Antarctic
- 30. Author related to another author
- 31. Author related to author in prompt 30
- 32. Publisher starting with the letter "B"
- 33. A standalone fantasy novel
- 34. Inspired by the top-grossing movie the year you were born
- 35. Character with a secret identity
- 36. Award-winning book from last year
- 37. Started on the 26th of the month
- 38. Domestic fiction
- 39. A book that cost you nothing
- 40. Author's first and last name start with the same letter
- 41. A guide to...
- 42. Includes a handwritten interior font
- 43. A Goodreads recommendation for you
- 44. Literary Device: Personification
- 45. Biographical fiction
- 46. Non-fiction about character in prompt 45
- 47. A diacritical mark on the cover
- 48. Related to the word "Nemesis"
- 49. In the 800s of the Dewey Decimal System
- 50. Set in a castle
- 51. Includes a map
- 52. Published in 2026

WWW.THE52BOOK.CLUB

DEPARTMENT NEWS – ENGLISH



Winner: Frances G, Year 7



ENGLISH CHRISTMAS COMPETITION

It was a very tricky decision for the new year to be presented with such wonderful entries for our Christmas competition! A winner has been notified this week, and all of these amazing entries have received achievement points too...

Look-out for a spring and summer competition from our department, and, in the meantime, keep reading – as shown, it sparks your imagination and creativity!!



DEPARTMENT NEWS – ENGLISH

SPECIES STORIES WRITING COMPETITION WINNERS WITH THE SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK

To wrap up a whirlwind winter at MRC, members of Creative Writing Club submitted their imaginative entries to the 'Species Stories Writing Competition', organised and overseen by the South Downs National Park. This competition was open to Key Stage 3, with intent to raise awareness about the natural world on our doorstep.

A HUGE well done to the entries, particularly to our two winners, Ava A and Amelia F, both in Year 9, whose perceptive and personal creative responses stood out to the judges. The two winners have won certificates, and thanks to all the pupils' distinctive, compassionate creative written pieces, the school has been very kindly gifted a Pollination Station, as well as a beautiful copy of the illustrated nature and poetry book 'The Lost Words' by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris, alongside a generous grant towards a creative Outdoor Learning trip for the club.

Once again, a huge well done to Ava, Amelia, and to all the pupils who entered the competition – MRC is incredibly proud of your achievement. Keep writing!

Scarlett Stubbing

A BUTTERFLY'S TALE OF LIFE AND DEATH BY AMELIA F, AGED 13

I start as a colourless caterpillar moving calmly and steadily across a spread of leaves. I eat and eat and eat some more, and then eat some more again. I repeat this cycle until I'm finally ready. Ready to be accepted, loved, to be seen and pretty. I slowly start to create my cocoon, ensuring it will be comfortable until maturity. I will no longer be seen as an insignificant child; I will gain my colours, my way to gain confidence. But for now, it's time to sleep ... sleep while the metamorphosis takes over me, until I'm finally finished, more beautiful than before. Finally, 21 days later, I'm ready. Ready for the new world. 2 of my weeks are already up, I've aged, but for now, I am happy. Children look up and point their little fingers at me, looking at my bright bold colours. I enjoy making children smile, even at the sacrifice of my own life. Another week goes by, tick, tick, tick. Internal, indication that I'm almost out of time. Very soon death will clasp its cold hands around my wings. Flight will fail this time except for my heavenly hight to see my family before me. 1 day before I feel trapped, when I realise this is my last day... what will it be like? Will death hurt? Or will I go peacefully? I pray for peace to be worth it just so I could be beautiful. What price would you pay for beauty? It's too late for me now. What's done is done. I made my choice, and I chose beauty. I choose expectance I wish I could go back and make a different choice. In my final moments, I feel the life slipping from my wings, my antenna droop and drop, as if they've lost the hope and the fight to stay alive. All I can do now is lay here, in the silence of the night, waiting for my time to come, for death to wrap its icy cold fingers round me to carry me to heaven.



BUSY BUZZING BUMBLEBEES BY AVA A, AGED 13

In the sunny South Downs,
Buzzing happily and bright,
Lies beautiful bumblebees flying from left to right.
Dazzling stripes of deep black and glowing yellow,
Seems scary but can really be a delight.

Landing on sweet, flourishing flowers,
Carefully and gently tiny feet take little steps,
Peacefully, magical golden dust is taken from the anthers,
A busy morning for the bumblebees,
Surrounded by the quiet peace of nature.

At first glance, they may seem like a threat,
But in reality they are something we need to carefully protect,
They really only sting if you get too near,
Or when they feel a terrifying sense of fear.

Bumblebees live wanting safety,
Flying for the peace in the open air,
Smiling sun rays reflect off their wings,
Bringing happiness into bright blue skies.

So next time you see a buzzing bee,
And hear its humming tune,
As you watch it fly by freely,
Remember that those who scare,
Might just need a little more care.

SIXTH FORM



WANT MORE UPDATES?

LinkedIn®

FOLLOW US



MRC SIXTH FORM LINKEDIN

LinkedIn is a great professional platform for students to connect with possible employers and showcase their skills and experiences. Parents and students are welcome to follow the MRC Sixth Form page (click the link above) for regular updates on:

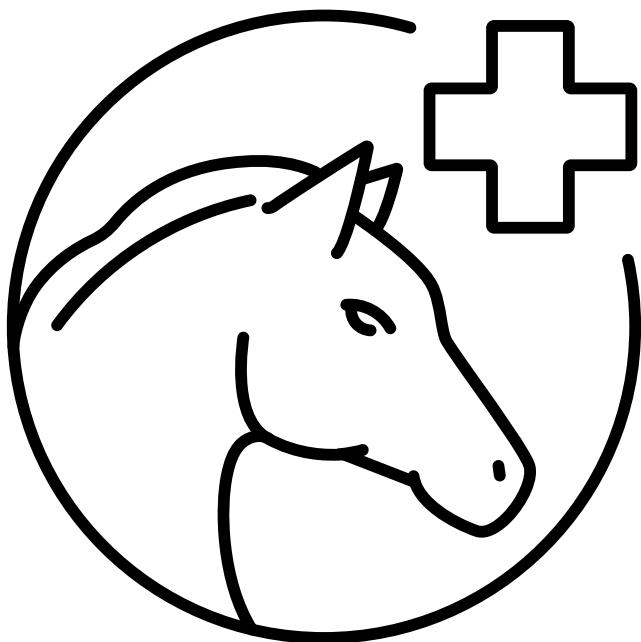
- Upcoming sixth form events.
- Apprenticeship and career opportunities.
- University open days and application advice.
- Tips and resources to help students plan for their future etc.

SIXTH FORM



CAN YOU HELP? DO YOU WORK AS / KNOW A VET?

We have a Year 12 Student looking to gain valuable work experience ready for their veterinary Medicine application next year. They have a particular passion for equine and farm animals. They are currently undertaking not only 4 A levels but an EPQ in "To what extent has the UK been successful in managing Bovine Tuberculosis". If you are able / know anyone able to help support setting up work experience, please reach out to Mr Puttock - Michael.puttock@mrc-academy.org



CAREERS INFORMATION

CAREERS INTERVIEWS – MONDAY 19 & FRIDAY 30 JANUARY

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 – Mon 19 January		Tutor Gp	Period	To go to:
Gumbrell	E	9A-CRN	REG (08:30) – 09:10	A117
Law	O	9A-CRN	09:10 – 09:52 (p1)	A117
May	W	9A-CRN	10:00 – 10:42 (p2)	A117
Neighbour	I	9A-CRN	11:10 – 11:52 (p3)	A117
Tarran	N	9A-CRN	12:00 – 12:46 (p4)	A117
Terry	M	9A-CRN	13:30 – 14:11 (p5)	A117
Weller	R	9A-CRN	14:15 – 15:05 (p6)	A117

Careers Interviews – Fri 30 January		Tutor Gp	Period	To go to:
Denny	N	9A-IHD	REG (08:30) – 09:10	A117
Clark	J	9A-IHD	09:10 – 09:52 (p1)	A117
Claydon	H	9A-IHD	10:00 – 10:42 (p2)	A117
Cotsworth Smith	A	9A-IHD	11:10 – 11:52 (p3)	A117
Delves	B	9A-IHD	12:00 – 12:46 (p4)	A117
Beaver	D	9A-IHD	13:30 – 14:11 (p5)	A117
Williams	D	9A-CRN	14:15 – 15:05 (p6)	A117

CAREERS INFORMATION

BBC BITESIZE CAREERS

Last week, students enjoyed an exciting visit from the BBC Bitesize Careers Tour, giving them a fascinating insight into the world of work.

The aim of the BBC Bitesize Careers Tour is to introduce secondary school students to a range of different careers and give them advice on how to get into various industries. Led by a BBC presenter, the session features a panel of three professionals who discuss their career paths, share anecdotes and offer tips on key soft skills for the workplace.

BBC Radio 1Xtra presenter Fee Mak hosted a panel discussion which featured representatives from Chichester Festival Theatre, BBC Children in Need and EasyJet. The students enjoyed hearing each of the guests' different perspectives and also had the opportunity to ask the panel questions of their own.

Iris, Year 11

"I really enjoyed today's Career's Event with BBC Bitesize – it was very exciting to have a radio host give a panel on careers, especially since the stage set up and speakers were so professional. This was one of the best careers talks we've had in Year 11 so far, in my opinion! Thanks so much to the people who organised it!"

Olivia, Year 8

"I found it very informative and interesting as someone who doesn't know what career I want to do. It was very inclusive for everyone."

Roger Burton, Assistant Principal and Careers Lead

"Our students were captivated by the presentation and discussions with the panel show, highlighting a huge range of jobs – both the "visible" ones and the "technician" roles that make it all happen. This was aimed at all students, whether or not they know what they want to do with next steps towards a final career or if they are still keeping their options open. The panel were particularly impressed by the quality of the questions that students asked, with some questions really making the panel think!"

CAREERS FAIR – 3 MARCH 2026

Following on from the inspiring Careers Tour, we are now looking forward to hosting our Careers Fair, which will give students the chance to talk in small groups with a range of different local workplaces, colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers. This builds on work done in tutor time each term, as well as year group assemblies and employer workshops within subject lessons.

WHAT NEXT GCSEs?

Thinking about GCSEs?

If you're in Year 8 or Year 9 – or a parent or carer helping someone decide their next steps – this online event is for you!

Join Get Career Confident's qualified advisors for a friendly, informative session all about choosing GCSEs.

You'll get support thinking through:

- How to choose the right courses for you
- How GCSE choices connect to your future plans
- Where to get extra support in the decision making process
- When and how to apply
- Plus – access videos and guides to help you

This event is free and open to everyone, but it will be especially useful for those about to make their GCSE options.



FREE ONLINE EVENT

JANUARY 28 6-7PM

Join us online on the day
[Click here](#)

Want a reminder?
[Click here](#)

What Next College uses materials that were originally developed for What Next Sussex, funded by Sussex Learning Network, East Sussex Careers Hub and West Sussex, Brighton & Hove Careers Hub.

PETWORTH YOUTH CLUB – SYLVIA BEAUFOY – VACANCY

Volunteer Role: Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Leader

Female leader preferred for safeguarding and supervision balance



We are looking for an enthusiastic and dedicated **Gold DofE Leader** to join our experienced and friendly team. Our programme supports young people from **Bronze** through to **Gold**, and this year we are proud to have **15 Gold Award participants** working towards their qualifying expedition in September. To ensure appropriate supervision and safeguarding for all our young people during expeditions and overnight stays, we are seeking a female leader to complement our current team and meet participant needs.

Commitment at a Glance

- **Monthly centre session:** Every 4th Thursday, 6:30pm–8:00pm
- **Expeditions:** Support a set calendar of training and qualifying trips (details below)

Monthly Centre Sessions

You'll attend our regular Gold DofE evenings every **4th Thursday of the month** from **6:30pm–8:00pm**.

Expedition Programme (annual)

- Brecon Beacons – **3 days** (end of October)
- Dartmoor – **3 days** (mid–late March)
- New Forest – **3 days** (mid May)
- Dartmoor – **5 days** (end of July – training)
- Brecon Beacons – **5 days** (end of August into early September – qualifying)

These trips are core to the Gold Award and involve navigation, safety, teamwork, and motivation in outdoor environments.

Skills & Qualifications

- **Preferred:** Hill and Moorland Leader (or higher)
- If you don't yet hold this, we welcome applicants with the time and willingness to complete the training—support available.
- Enjoyment of outdoor environments and working with young people
- Strong communication, empathy, and reliability
- A team player who contributes to a positive, inclusive culture



Why Join Us?

- Be part of a passionate, well-established leadership team
- Help young people grow in confidence, resilience, and independence
- Gain valuable training and expedition experience
- Make a real difference to young people aiming for the highest level of the Award

PETWORTH PLAYERS PRESENTS...



**THE
LITTLE
mermaid
THE PANTO**

**Tickets available online or from
Austen's Petworth!**

23rd January - 25th January 2026
Herbert Shiner Hall, Petworth

Friday 7:30pm
Saturday 2:30pm
Saturday 7:30pm
Sunday 2:30pm

Adult: £10 | Child / Senior: £7 | Family of 4: £28

 petworthplayers.co.uk  petworth.players  Petworth Players  petworthplayers56@gmail.com

LOCAL NEWS/EVENTS

YOUTH ACTION DAYS AT SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK FOR STUDENTS AGED 16 – 25

Saturday 17 January 2026 11am-3pm Ludshott Common Heathlands Reunited, Ludshott Common

A chance to Join Heathland Ranger, Kirsty, for nature conservation and wildlife habitat restoration around Ludshott Common. Help to enhance the rare heathland habitat by clearing areas of scrub and removing pine trees using hand tools.

No previous experience is necessary as you will be shown how to use all of the equipment for the task.

Bookings can be made [here](#)

Saturday 31 January 2026 10:30am – 3pm Steyning Downland Steyning Downland Scheme with Naturebytes

A chance to explore and experiment using wildlife technologies to reconnect with nature and local wildlife. Using tech can bring this landscape to life in a new way. A mix of ancient chalk grassland, chalk scrub, wet woodland, a chalk stream, ponds and deciduous woodland create ideal conditions for classic South Downs wildlife to thrive.

This event is accessible for everyone- you don't need to be an expert, just interested!

Bookings can be made [here](#)



TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2026

Friday 13 February	College Closed
Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February	Half Term
Friday 27 March	Last day of term

CALENDAR - PERFORMING ARTS

MRC PERFORMING ARTS - CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026

DATE	EVENT	STUDENTS INVOLVED	VENUE
Spring 2026			
Friday 16 January	Rotary Young Musician competition. (District)	Instrumental candidates Vocal Candidates	Theatre
Saturday 7 Feb	CFMDS Woodwind Strings	Flute ensemble Clarinet ensemble (+ any soloists who have entered)	New Park, Chichester
Tuesday 10 March	Dance House 1	MRC Dance Teams Minibus	Worthing Theatre
Thursday 5 March	Choreography showcase event	Y11/10/12 Dance Dance Teams Choreography cup	MRC Theatre
Tuesday 10 Feb	YR 11 Component 2 exam (1)	GCSE Drama YR11	MRC Theatre
Wednesday 11 to Friday 13 February (one date will be finalised soon)	Making Moves regional Platform Performance in London	Making Moves team	Travelling to London (venue tbc)
Wednesday 11 Feb	YR 11 Component 2 exam (2)	GCSE Drama YR11	MRC Theatre
Thursday 12 Feb	Yr 13 Component 2	A level Drama	MRC Theatre
Spring Term – date tbc	Sixth Form Show	Drama Y12/13	Theatre
Thursday 19 March	Gilbert Hannam day	Orchestra	St. Mary Magdalene & St. Denys
Monday 23 March	West Sussex Music event - <i>The Water Diviner's Tale</i>	Choir	Worthing Assembly Hall
Wednesday 25 March	Spring Concert	Orchestra Choir, Jazz, Strings, Flutes, Drama/production groups, Soloists (by invite) Bands	MRC Theatre
???	Rother Valley Arts Festival	MRC Dance Teams	MRC Theatre
Summer 2026			
April TBC	Y13 Music recital	Y13	MRC Theatre
Thursday 3 April	Dance showcase event	Y11/10	MRC Theatre
Wednesday 30 April	Dance House 2	MRC Dance Teams Minibus	Worthing Festival Theatre
Thursday 23 April	YR 10 Drama Performance	GCSE Drama YR10	MRC Theatre
Friday 24 April	YR 12 Drama Performance	GCSE Drama YR12	MRC Theatre
June TBC	Drama Day		MRC Theatre
Wednesday 1 July	Pre tour concert/info	Tour students	Theatre or amphitheatre
Monday 6 July	Austria Tour!	Performing arts group	Salzburg
Tuesday 14 July	Drama and Music House Cup	YR 7	MRC Theatre Music P1-4, Drama 5-6

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)

Arbor Link: Midhurst Rother College (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)

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

Term Dates: Midhurst Rother College > Information > College Term dates (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)

Past editions of Midhurst Matters Newsletter - Midhurst Matters (mrc-academy.org)