



Midhurst Rother College

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

2 September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 - Autumn Term 1

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable summer break.

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students on what was a fantastic Year 7. They embraced every opportunity presented to them, settled into secondary school life exceptionally well, and consistently demonstrated the values and attitudes that make us so proud. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our new Year 8 students back to college on Thursday.

Last year was filled with many memorable highlights. Most recently, the excellent tracking point results demonstrated the progress and commitment shown by so many students. We also enjoyed a hugely successful Sportathon, which showcased our students' enthusiasm, teamwork, resilience and raised so much money. Of course, one of the standout moments of the year was the Year 7 residential visit, where students challenged themselves, developed new friendships and created lasting memories. We are incredibly excited for another busy and rewarding year ahead, with plenty of opportunities, events and experiences already planned.

A few reminders regarding the first day back. Students should arrive at college as normal. Once the bell goes, they should make their way to their tutor room, where they will spend the first couple of hours together catching up, receiving key information and preparing for the term ahead. During the morning, students will also attend an assembly led by Mr Edwards to officially welcoming them back to college.

We are also delighted to welcome Mr Marshall to the Year 8 team this year. Following Miss Charpentier's appointment as our new Director of Teaching and Learning, Mr Marshall will be taking over the Grammar Stream tutor group. Mr Marshall is already a familiar face to the year group, and we know he will be a fantastic addition to the team.



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Year 8 Parent Information Evening

We would also like to invite you to our Year 8 Information Evening, which will take place face-to-face on Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 6:00pm.

The evening is a valuable opportunity for us to share important information about the year ahead, including academic expectations, pastoral support, key events, and how we can work together to ensure your child has a successful and enjoyable Year 8 experience.

The Year 8 Team

A reminder that your child's tutor is your primary point of contact and is best placed to support a wide range of matters, including wellbeing, and everyday concerns. They play a vital role in your child's day-to-day pastoral care and overall development throughout the school year. Their close, daily interaction with your child enables them to provide the most effective support and guidance.

Please see below for the contact details of our Year 8 team.

Head of Year	Mr A Lamb	ashley.lamb@mrc-academy.org
7A-KOA	Mr K Odedra	kaushal.odedra@mrc-academy.org
7A-HRS	Mrs H Reynolds	hannah.reynolds@mrc-academy.org
7K-TML	Mr T Marshall	thomas.marshall@mrc-academy.org
7T-CEE	Mrs C Erskine	claudia.erskine@mrc-academy.org
7T-EHH	Miss E Haigh	erin.haigh@mrc-academy.org
7W-VSN	Mrs V Robert	vania.roberts@mrc-academy.org
7W-KMN	Mrs K Murray-Killen	katy.murray-killen@mrc-academy.org

Mobile Phones

As in previous years, students are permitted to bring a mobile phone to college; however, it must remain switched off and stored securely in their bag throughout the college day. Mobile phones should not be visible or used anywhere on the college site unless a member of staff has given specific permission.

This approach helps to minimise distractions, supports students' learning and wellbeing, and ensures that they remain focused on their lessons and college activities. We appreciate your support in reinforcing this expectation with your child before they return to college.

Punctuality to Lessons & College

It is essential that students arrive promptly to each lesson to maximise learning time and minimise disruption. If a student is late to a lesson, they will be issued a lunchtime detention the following day.

In addition, if a student is late to college or lessons more than three times in a single week, they will receive an after-college detention, which will take place every Monday from 3:05 to 4:05pm. Please note that transport arrangements following after-school detentions are the responsibility of parents and carers, not the college.

We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of punctuality and helping your child develop strong habits that will benefit them throughout their education.

Attendance Matters

Here at Midhurst Rother College, we place great importance on excellent attendance and continue to aim for 96% or above for all students. When attendance drops below 95%, it becomes a concern, as it means less time in the classroom and fewer opportunities to engage with learning.



Consistent attendance is key to helping your child make steady progress, build strong relationships, and fully benefit from their education. To support your child's success, we kindly ask that they attend college every day.

Ensuring attendance at college is a parent/carer's legal obligation and we are keen to support parents with this, not least because of the huge amount of national data that proves the correlation between good attendance and academic progress.

If your child is unable to attend college, please notify us on 01730 812451 then select option 1 or via email: attendance@mrc-academy.org.

As always, punctuality will also continue to be monitored. Please can we ask parents to support us in encouraging good attendance and punctuality. More information or forms regarding attendance can be located on our website: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/attendance>

Homework

Homework plays a vital role in reinforcing classroom learning, developing independent study habits, and building time management skills. It allows students to revisit key concepts, deepen their understanding, and prepare for future lessons.

We are pleased to see many of our Year 8 students engaging positively with their homework tasks and showing real dedication to their studies.

To help students manage their workload effectively, we strongly encourage them to create a homework timetable. Breaking homework down into smaller, manageable chunks can make tasks feel less overwhelming and help maintain a healthy balance between school and home life.

A gentle reminder: if homework is missed, it is logged as a negative point on Arbor. Repeated missed homework may result in a lunchtime or after-college detention.

Group Chats / Social Media

I would like to remind families about the use of group chats and social media. Group chats can sometimes lead to issues such as social exclusion, inappropriate content being shared, peer pressure, disrupted sleep, and conflicts that can impact students' wellbeing and college life.

Please be aware that most social media platforms have a minimum age requirement of 13, with some platforms having even higher age limits. These restrictions are in place to help protect young people online. We ask that you take time to speak with your child about their online activity and ensure they are only accessing age-appropriate platforms.

As a school, we strongly discourage the creation of group chats within tutor groups or across year groups, as these often contribute to difficulties between students that can affect learning, relationships and emotional wellbeing. If we receive information that a student is accessing social media platforms that they are underage for, we are required to inform parents and carers and, where necessary, report the account or page to the relevant social media provider as part of our safeguarding duties.

Keeping students safe online is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate your support in working with us to promote safe and responsible use of technology.

For further support, you can visit the NSPCC's Online Safety Hub - [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

Uniform

If you have any queries regarding uniform, the uniform policy is available to read on our website: <https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/uniform>. Please ensure that your child's belongings have their name in them so that they can be identified if they are lost and handed in to student reception.

A reminder that Nike Airforce trainers, hoodies or white socks are not permitted. Black school jumpers are available from our uniform suppliers.

Key Dates

15 September 2026	Year 8 Parent Information Evening
25 September 2026	Sponsored Walk
2 October 2026	INSET Day
26-30 October 2026	Half Term
27 November 2026	INSET Day

We look forward to another successful year together and to seeing all our students continue to grow, achieve and thrive throughout Year 8.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ashley Lamb', written in a cursive style.

Mr Ashley Lamb
Head of Year 8