Midhurst Rother College The best in everyone[™]

Part of United Learning

Week B | Monday 3 February 2025

MIDHURST ATTERS

Date	Year Group	Events/Details
Monday 3 February	All	House Event - Cross Country
Tuesday 4 February		
Wednesday 5 February	7-13	Yellow Photography Tutor Photographs
Thursday 6 February		
Friday 7 February		Brave the Shave - Charity Event

Austen	Kipling	Tennyson	Woolf
115,542	133,426	129,399	137,342
(7,779)	(8,966)	(8,649)	(9,554)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This week, over 180 of our students took part in the UK Maths Challenge. Well done to all! We will receive the results shortly and will share these with the students. These tests are not easy by any standard and I look forward to seeing the results in the coming weeks. Around 70% of our current Year 13 students have submitted applications to Universities this year, some of them have received offers from the very best institutions in the country. Our A-Level results are very strong every year and I look forward to seeing them achieve their places, due to their hard work, in the summer.

Parents and carers know that we have been consulting on a change to the school day from September 2025. Initially, I said I would respond to the consultation by the end of January. It has been necessary to delay this and I will respond to you at the very latest by half-term.

Best wishes,

Stuart Edwards Principal

KS3 & KS4 ASSESSMENT DIARY

Week Beginning: 3 February 2025

At MRC students in Years 7-10 sit three assessments per year, with 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 9 : in class assessments begin this week for all subjects (except English, mathematics and science) (3 February 2025 onwards)
- Year 8 : in class assessments for all subjects (except English, mathematics and science) in the fortnight beginning 24 February 2025

Detailed dates for assessments are found via the link below. This page is updated every week : https://www. mrc-academy.org/curriculum/assessment-dates

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 – please do contact your Head of Year for support and advice should this be the case.

GILBERT HANNAM DAY - THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025

Every year, in March, we continue the tradition of attending Midhurst Parish Church to give thanks for the life of Gilbert Hannam who set up the very first school in Midhurst. The first incarnation of our school for twelve boys has grown and developed over more than 300 years to become the modern college we work and learn in today.

All Year 11 students will attend a Church service on the Thursday morning before prize winners and their families are invited to the evening ceremony. Teachers are currently nominating hard-working Year 11 and Year 13 students for the subject prizes to be awarded.

The legacy of Gilbert Hannam is managed by a Trust (GHEF) who help our school with a range of grants and financial support every year. On 20 March prizes will be awarded for the essay competition and the best student travel bid will also receive a bursary.

Mrs Lunskey

UK GOVERNMENT HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

With half term approaching, West Sussex County Council has confirmed that families with Free School Meals (FSM) eligible children will be entitled to a £10.00 voucher for each FSM child during the upcoming February half term school holiday.

For children who are not FSM eligible but whose families need urgent support with food and other cost of living related support in West Sussex, the Community Hub is operating.

From 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025, the UK Government is providing funding through the Household Support Fund. West Sussex County Council will use this funding to support low-income households with the rising cost of living, including energy, food and essential bills.

The fund is intended to cover a wide range of low-income households in need including: families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, disabled people, larger families, single-person households and those struggling with one-off financial shocks or unforeseen events

HOW SUPPORT IS PROVIDED

Food and household essentials vouchers

Successful applicants will be awarded the below supermarket voucher values dependant on the size of their household.

Energy support.

If you are currently experiencing financial hardship with no alternative option available and are concerned that your energy supply may be at risk of disconnection, please complete an application for support.

More details and how to apply can be found here: Community Hub - West Sussex County Council

URGENT SPARE UNIFORM REQUEST

Skirt Shortage

We would be extremly grateful for any donations of school skirts. We keep a stock at Student Reception should anybody need a change of uniform whilst in College, but our reserves are depleted. If you have a skirt that is in good condition but the zip has failed we can replace the zip and continue to use the skirt.

Thank you in advance.

Student Reception



COLLEGE NOTICES

MRC COMMUNITY DAY 2025 - SAVE THE DATE

Attention all local businesses, agencies and groups!

The Midhurst Rother College Community Day 2025 will be held on Saturday 26 April from 10am-2pm.

It's a great event where we open up the College to demonstrate what our community has on offer and for you to advertise your wares and also grab a few sales too. Stalls are free of charge to all.

If you would like a space at the event please use this link to express interest:

MRC Community Day -Expression of Interest

Midhurst Rother College Community Day Saturday 26 April 2025 10am-2pm

Calling all local businesses, agencies and groups to join us at this event to

- share your skills
- demonstrate your crafts
- promote your goods
- recruit new members
- engage with the local community

It's all about what's on offer on our doorstep!

ALL STAND & EXHIBITION SPACE FREE OF CHARGE

For more information email: madeline.hathaway@mrc-academy.org or contact the College Office: 01730 812451











EASTER EGGS FOR FOODBANK

It's almost that cracking time of year again.

A quick heads up that after Half Term we will again be collecting Easter Eggs for the Foodbank Easter Holiday lunchboxes. These lunchboxes go out to free school meals children and other vulnerable families. Last year we gathered over 200 Easter Eggs at this collection.

Further details to follow after half term.







Register for a Kids Lunch Pack this Easter

Who can register?

Any parent with a school-aged child within the Chichester District who is receiving free school meals due to low income.

How do I register?

Please contact your child's school for a registration code and register on our website.

What's in a lunch pack?

Each child receives a box containing enough food for ten lunches weighing around 13kg. Items will include tinned meat & veg, cooking sauce, rice or pasta, biscuits and spreads.



Registration closes on: Sun 9 March, 8pm

C 01243 773687 🔘 chichesterdistrict.foodbank.org.uk



DEPARTMENT NEWS

SIXTH FORM

On Tuesday, Mr Burton accompanied 11 of our Sixth Form students to an Outreach Day at the University of Cambridge.

We visited Churchill College where we had a tour (although the student taking us round wouldn't show us his room - probably not tidy!), an introduction on how to make your application stand out, a sample lecture and a very nice lunch.

Despite the long distance, we then took time to wander into the centre of Cambridge - seeing Newton's apple tree which is right outside the gates of

Trinity College (pictured - the apple tree wasn't impressive to see in the winter, so we thought the gates made a better photo).

Students are now comparing this with Oxford, which most of them visited when they were in Year 10 or 11, or other competitive Universities. Mr Roger Burton



MATHS DEPARTMENT

We wish our top set Year 9s, Year 10s, and Year 11s good luck in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge that took place on Wednesday 29 January. We have had some great results in previous years, and I have no doubt our students will do us proud this year. Results will take a few weeks to release, but we will update you as soon as we receive them.





United Kingdom Mathematics Trust



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

NEA Survey - Improvements to High Streets

If you have a spare 5 minutes would you please consider completing Mia H in Year 13's Improvement to High Streets Survey as part of her geography NEA.

Thank you.

Please click on the link: https://forms.office.com/e/1K3jWwfwrj

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Spotlight on Year 8, upcoming English Topic: Social Justice

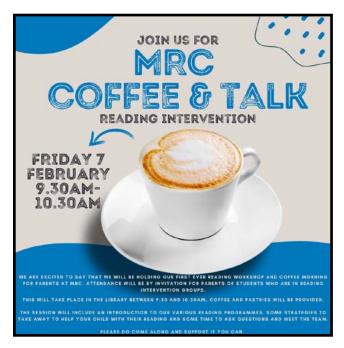
In our upcoming English lessons, we will explore the inspiring theme of social justice. This critical topic focuses on fairness, equality, and the power of individuals to create positive change in society. By examining key figures like Malala Yousafzai and Marcus Rashford, students will learn about courage, advocacy, and the importance of standing up for what is right.

We will study texts such as I Am Malala and excerpts from Marcus Rashford's writings, which highlight their journeys to challenge injustice and empower others. Through these stories, students will develop their understanding of important concepts like equality, privilege, activism, and community.

Key vocabulary for this unit includes: Advocacy, Injustice, Empowerment, Privilege, Equality

We encourage parents and carers to engage in discussions about social justice at home. By fostering a culture of respectful debate and open conversation, families can support students in exploring these ideas and forming their own perspectives.

Together, let's inspire the next generation to recognise their potential to make a difference!



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Scientists of the Week

The Scientists of the Week are listed below, Well done, keep up the good work!

Year 7 - Levi B-N, Robyn M Year 8 - Gracie C-W, Bailey D Year 9 - Issy D, Frank Clark Year 10 - Phoebe S, Arthur McC



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In partnership with West Sussex Music, MRC are now hosting Tomorrow's Orchestra Programme (TOP25) for wannabe musicians in Years 3-6.

TOP25 is a three-term programme for complete beginners aged 7 to 11 yrs old (Year 3 to Year 6). It includes:

- Free instrumental lessons.
- Instrument loan for the year.
- Membership of the TOP Orchestra.

Space still available for brass and woodwind Tuesday at Midhurst Rother College 4:30pm-6:00pm.

TOP25 runs for three terms from January to December. The first term is free* and terms 2 and 3 just £75 per term.

*There is a one-off non-refundable booking fee of £10.

For more details scan the QR code or visit <u>https://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/top/</u> to book your place.

Rotary Young Musician District Competition - 7 February, 12.40 - 1.40pm

Would you like to be the next Rotary Young Musician?

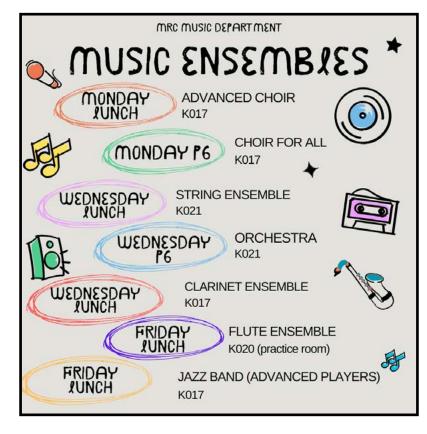
Solo instrumentalists and vocalists that wish to enter need to prepare a piece to perform to our judges and Rotarians.

If you are successful, you will then be entered into the regional/cluster finals.

Although the rules state "not exceeding 13 mins" as we only have a short time to hold these, please can we ask that the performance time does not exceed 4 mins for this round.

Please refer to the information pack for more information and rules of the competition (click here).

We are very much looking forward to hearing you!





MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Music Lessons

New Year – Time to try something different? Please check out all the instrumental lessons we have on offer here at MRC. There is something for everyone: From Violin lessons to DJ lessons!

If you are looking to try something a bit different, we are calling out for more brass students! If you fancy learning the trumpet or trombone, please contact Emma Button for lessons.

If you learn through one of our West Sussex teachers there is also a bursary program that can support financially. Help with costs - <u>West Sussex Music</u>





👐 MUSIC LESSONS

VIOLIN Ray ray.box89@hotmail.com

CELLO

Jess jessica.garner@hotmail.co.uk

BRASS

Emma emmabuttonmusic@gmail.com

PIANO/KEYBOARD

Rowan or Brigitte rowanpiano@gmail.com brigitte.v.vant@gmail.com

FLUTE

Kate katherine.parkin@westsussex music.co.uk

SAXOPHONE, CLARINET, FLUTE Emma

emmamilnemusic@hotmail.com

DRUMS Steve steve@drumnut.co.uk



GUITAR

Dave or Marco david.soothill@gmail.co.uk help@sarahhewlett.co.uk

SINGING Charlotte

charlottemasonmusic@gmail.com

DJING Deen www.nextgenmusic.org

Music Department Spotlight

Congratulations to Aurora L and Charlie H! Smashing results in their recent singing exams.

Charlie achieved Merit in her Grade 5 Singing Exam. Aurora achieved Distinction at Grade 6. Charlotte Mason, singing teacher, stated they were some of the highest marks she'd ever seen!

Massive well done to both, what a fantastic achievement.

We look forward to hearing more from them both soon....

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Author of the month

In honour of the Chinese New Year, the Author of the Month for February is Marie Lu. There are copies of her works in the Library for your to enjoy.





PE DEPARTMENT

Cross Country

Year 7 and Year 8's travelled to Bishop Luffa to compete in the West Sussex Area Cross Country Competition. Everyone did really well in tough conditions with the mud and the rain! Shoutout to Emily S who won her race and showed great improvement! Miss Simmonds & Mr Hancock







Football

The latest MRC Derby saw the Battle of the Year 10 year half's with Y vs X. The hotly anticipated game did not disappoint as the Y half secured an emphatic 10-2 win. The team lead by Dom B and Charlie H (scoring 4 and 2 goals respectively) played fantastically throughout and showed class throughout their squad. The X side kept pushing on and managed to grab 2 goals both curtesy of Zak D.

Well done for the fans who came out to watch in the cold!

Keep an eye out for the first league fixtures for the Year 10 boys team starting next week!

Goals from: Dom B x 4 Charlie H x 2 Josh W x 1 Valentino P x 1 Charlie I x 1 Wilf x 1 Zak D x 2







respect, happiness, achievement

MRC Gym Club

Why You Should Join the Gym Club at MRC

Staying healthy and active while balancing school can be tough, but joining your school's free gym club makes it easy—and fun! Here's why you should consider it:

1. It's Free!

No costs—just a chance to work out and stay fit.

2. Stress Relief

Exercise helps reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, so hitting the gym is a great way to clear your head and feel better after a tough day.

3. Boost Your Focus

Regular workouts can improve your concentration and memory, helping you stay sharp in class.

4. Build Healthy Habits

Joining the gym club teaches you discipline, goal-setting, and how to balance fitness with schoolwork.

5. Meet New People

The gym is a great place to make new friends and connect with others who share your interests.

6. Convenient and Accessible

The gym is open to KS3 on Tuesdays and KS4 on Wednesdays, just bring your PE kit with you!

Mr Marshall











CAREERS INFORMATION

Rolls-Royce Apprenticeships

All Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Apprenticeships are now live on their website, visit: <u>https://www.bmwgroup.jobs/gb/en/rolls-royce-motorcars-futuretalent.html</u>

They have updated the page with more testimonials as well as registration links to two webinars.

18 March from 6pm - 7pm and 10 February 12.30am - 1.15pm.



If you are unable to register for the 18 March in the evening and would like to book onto the 10 February, we will arrange for the student to log on at College, but we will need the name of the student who has registered for it and please ensure any links are sent to the students school email address so they can click on it on the day. Please email the students name to <u>samantha.jones@mrc-academy.org.</u> who will be logging in at school.

These webinars are a chance for young people and their families to learn more about the application and assessment process and to hear from current apprentices.

All information and registration links are on their website.

MRC Careers Fair 2025

Can you help us, do you have an interesting employer or own business that you feel would be an excellent addition to our Careers Fair this year? Please email samantha.jones@mrc-academy.org for more information.





Where are you now? Join MRC Alumni

It's been years...we hope that you left Midhurst Rother College with all the tools for your next steps in life. We would really like to know what you are doing now and what you have been doing since you left. Did you go to university, take an apprenticeship course, start a business or perhaps start working for a family business, have you taken a well-trodden or an unusual Career path?

Please scan the QR code to join our central Alumni Community at Lifelong United Learning to update us or click this link <u>Lifelong United Learning</u> | <u>Support Us</u> | <u>United Learning</u>. You might also want to join our new Midhurst Rother College (MRC) page on <u>LinkedIn</u> (if you add us as your Education on LinkedIn you will be automatically added as our MRC Alumni, or you can choose to follow us).

It really would be great to hear from you as it's always nice to hear about old students! Please do get in touch.

STUDENT RECEPTION

FREE Sanitary Products

We have a plentiful and varied stock of sanitary products at Student Reception, FREE to students! Just pop by and stock up!



FREE

Uniform

A reminder to label all uniform so it can be returned to its rightful owner should it be misplaced. Especially blazers as they are a key piece of uniform and a costly item.

Hoodies

As the weather gets colder, a gentle reminder to students and parents that coats are obviously allowed to be worn, but HOODIES are not part of the uniform and will be removed from students if they wear them to College or during break times. Leggings are also not acceptable as part of the school uniform.

Coats over blazers are of course perfectly acceptable, we don't want anyone getting cold, but hoodies are not permitted for school, PE or Dance - we have a no hoodies on site policy. Please

click on the link below for the uniform policy if you are unsure on any of the uniform.

UNIFORM POLICY

Negative Uniform/Jewellery Points

'Pink Slips' are assigned to students who are not conforming to our uniform/jewellery policy. A negative point is added to your child's Arbor and each point represents one pink slip that has been issued over the course of the current week – one negative point per pink slip. If you have any queries regarding the issuing of the negative point, please email enquiries@mrc-academy.org.

Thank you for working with us to help keep our students smart, it is so important in setting them up to achieve!



LOCAL INFORMATION

BUILD-A-GAME CODING WORKSHOP

Have you ever dreamed of designing your very own game?

Join our exciting Kids Coding Workshops for budding game developers aged 10-14 and turn your ideas into reality using the Godot engine!

Six weekly sessions from Saturday, 11 January - Saturday 15 February. 2pm - 3.30pm. £4 per session, or £20 to attend all 6 sessions.

Learn to create games from scratch or enhance your Godot coding skills. Work on projects of all levels.

What to Bring:

A computer or laptop. Godot runs on Windows, Linux, and MacOS online. No laptop? No problem! Talk to a staff member about borrowing one of ours. Please note that library laptops can only be used on-site, so you won't be able to take your project home to work on it.

Get creative, meet like-minded gamers, and bring your vision to life. You can attend as many sessions as you like—don't miss the chance to level up your skills!

Please note that Godot will only run on Windows, Mac and Linux it will not run on a Chrome Book.

Book Now: haslemere.library@surreycc.gov.uk



CALENDARS / DIARY DATES

MRC Performing Arts - Calendar of Events 2025

		ng Arts - Calendar of Events	2023
Spring Term 2025			
Saturday 8 February	CFMDS - Woodwind	Flute ensemble Clarinet ensemble (+ any soloists who have entered)	New Park, Chichester
Wednesday 26 February	Dance House 1	MRC Dance Teams Minibus	Worthing Theatre
Saturday 1 March	CFMDS Festival	Orchestra Jazz Band Flute ensemble	St Pauls, Chichester
Saturday 8 March	CFMDS	Choirs	St Pauls, Chichester, from 9am
Tuesday 18 March	Yr 11 Component 2 exam (1)	GCSE Drama Yr 11	MRC Theatre
Wednesday 19 March	Yr 11 Component 2 exam (2)	GCSE Drama Yr 11	MRC Theatre
Thursday 20 March	Gilbert Hannam Day	Orchestra	St. Mary Magdalene & St. Denys
Wednesday 26 March	Spring Concert	Orchestra Choir Jazz Strings, flutes Drama/production groups Soloists (by invite) Bands	MRC Theatre
Thursday 27 March	Choreography showcase event	Yr 11 Dance Plus dance groups	MRC Theatre
Friday 28 March	Rother Valley Arts Festival	MRC Dance Teams	MRC Theatre
Tuesday 1 April	ROH Create and Sing launch for Magic Flute	Invited students – Singers plus orchestral players (audition)	Royal Opera House
Summer 2025			
April TBC	Yr 13 Music recital	Yr 13	MRC Theatre
Thursday 3 April	Dance showcase event	Yr 11/10	MRC Theatre
Wednesday 30 April	Dance House 2	MRC Dance Teams Minibus	Worthing Festival Theatre
Tuesday 6 May	Yr 10 Drama Performance	GCSE Drama Yr10	MRC Theatre
Thursday 8 May	Yr 10 Drama Performance	GCSE Drama YR10	MRC Theatre
Wednesday 21 May	Yr 12 Component 1	Yr 12	MRC Theatre
Tuesday 24 June	Magic Flute	Invited students	Royal Festival Hall
June TBC	Drama Day		MRC Theatre
Thursday 26 June	Addams Family – School production!	Cast and orchestra of Addams Family	MRC Theatre
Friday 27 June	Addams Family – School production	Cast and orchestra of Addams Family	MRC Theatre
Tuesday 15 July	Drama and Music House Cup	Yr 7	MRC Theatre Music P1-4 Drama 5-6

DIARY DATES

These dates are accurate at the time of publishing.

Date	Event	
17 - 21 February	Half Term	
7 - 21 April	Easter Holidays	
22 April	INSET Day	
5 May	Bank Holiday	
26 - 30 May	Half Term	
18 July	Last Day of Term / Academic Year	

Throughout the year, parents receive Tracking Point (TP) reports which record Attitude to Learning (A2L), subject grades and gives an overview of attendance for their child. There are 3 TPs in Years 7 – 10, and 4 TPs in Years 11 – 13. This information will be released and viewed on the Arbor platform

Attitude to Learning (A2L)

2

ERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S TRACKING POINT REPO

A2L is split into four key focus areas and defined as follows:

Classwork: This measures the degree to which a student engages and contributes to lessons. This considers a student's ability and willingness to ask questions, contribute to discussions, engage with classroom activities, produce work to the highest of their ability, seek out extension tasks, and take responsibility for their own learning.



Homework: This measures student engagement with independent work set. This considers a student's reliability to complete and hand work in on time, the quality of the work being produced, and also reflects levels of personal organisation.

Prepared for Learning: This relates to personal standards in and around the College. This considers punctuality to lessons and having the right equipment for learning. For Sixth Form, this includes meeting deadlines, dress code adherence and the use of study periods.

Behaviour for Learning: This measures student attitudes within the classroom. This considers a student's ability to remain focused on tasks, levels of engagement, and positive and negative incidents that impact on their learning or the learning of others - ensuring that all students have the right to undisrupted learning.

Students will receive a score for each of the above elements on a scale of 1 - 4:

4	Outstanding	Exceptionally high standards always met.
3	Good	Mostly high standards, some inconsistencies which leave room for improvement.
2	Inconsistent	Variable standards, satisfactory as often as unsatisfactory. Negatively affects achievement.
1	Unsatisfactory	Standards are often unacceptable. Considerable impact on achievement and learning of others.



Students receive a GCSE grade in Years 7-11 as part of each TP. As a parent/carer, you will also be provided with a grade following each examination window, along with an average grade. Each year group has a maximum grade they can receive 3+ in Year 7, 4+ in Year 8, 5+ in Year 9, 7+ in Year 10, 9+ in Year 11 and A* in Year 13.



Attendance matters! As a parent/carer, you will see an overall attendance figure for your child (given as a percentage). This diagram details the correlation between attendance and education, and how attendance can



If you have any questions regarding the report, please contact your child's Head of Year and/or classroom teacher(s).

Grade maximums for each year Attendance impact success and life chances. Discussion and support are always offered to maximise the outcomes for every individual.

VACANCIES AT MIDHURST ROTHER COLLEGE

Please click on the following link for the latest vacancies at MRC: <u>https://www.mrc-academy.org/about-us/vacancies</u>

HELPFUL MRC WEBSITE LINKS

Arbor Information Guides: <u>Arbor Information Guides (mrc-academy.org)</u> Arbor Link: <u>Midhurst Rother College (arbor.sc)</u> College Calendar: <u>https://www.mrc-academy.org/information/calendar</u> Homework: <u>https://www.mrc-academy.org/curriculum/homework</u> Letters: <u>https://www.mrc-academy.org/communication/letters</u> Educational Visits: <u>Midhurst Rother College > Communication > Letters (mrc-academy.org)</u> Staff Emails: <u>https://bit.ly/StaffEmailAddress</u> Term Dates: <u>Midhurst Rother College > Information > College Term dates (mrc-academy.org)</u> School Cloud: <u>https://midhurst.schoolcloud.co.uk/</u> Sparx Maths: <u>https://www.sparxmaths.uk/student</u>

Sparx Reader: <u>Sparx Reader</u>

Lexia POWERUP Literacy - Login and Student Program: <u>Device Setup - PowerUp (lexiapowerup.com)</u> Past editions of Midhurst Matters Newsletter <u>Midhurst Matters (mrc-academy.org)</u>