

# Rye College

“Creating Bright Futures For All”



# Welcome to Rye College

Dear Parents and Families,

Our mission at Rye College is to 'create bright futures for all'. With this in mind, we work hard to ensure that every child is happy and well supported on their educational journey with us. We want every child to grow and flourish in our care.

Our college is set in the attractive heart of 1066 country and is a place where students feel safe and have space to learn. We pride ourselves on being a closely knit community where students are known as individuals and where their talents are nurtured and celebrated.

By working closely together with our primary and feeder schools, we serve our children and families with added insight into the journey from ages two to sixteen, truly making us the first choice for Rye and surrounding area. We are driven by a pursuit of high academic standards regardless of start points and a desire for all students to experience an exceptional education.

Our aim is to challenge every learner to exceed their own expectations of themselves; create a can-do culture and the resilience to excel; include all members of our community through shared endeavour; and nurture diverse skills, talents and abilities whilst celebrating excellence.

Since November 2018, Rye College has been part of Aquinas - an educational trust of eleven schools in the south-east; we believe our students will benefit enormously from our shared ambition to excel. We are proud to be working together with Aquinas to build on our reputation for supporting students in realising their potential and going on to lead fruitful and productive lives.

I hope you take the opportunity to visit our college and see the transformation taking place. We invite you to engage with our greatest assets - the students - who are at the heart of our mission.



Dom Downes  
Head of College



Barry Blakelock  
Executive Headteacher



Transforming learning together

# An Exceptional Community



At Rye College we place great emphasis on the exceptional aspects of our community. We are proud to be an environment in which everyone feels happy, valued and safe. We focus on instilling a sense of responsibility in our students so they take ownership of their learning.

For us it is important that our youngsters are ambitious and understand the important role education plays in leading a productive and fulfilling adult life. Students recognise the privilege and value of accessing education and the importance of exploiting the opportunities presented.

Not only does our curriculum aim to foster deeper knowledge and wider skills but also a natural curiosity and sense of wonder about the world. Beyond the classroom our community seeks to strengthen character and provide broader opportunities to learn and socialise in both participative and competitive activities.

Our students are the back-bone of our college community and their voice plays an important part in shaping our direction of travel.

Through active participation in our transformation we hope our young people feel a greater sense of responsibility and maturity. By promoting inclusivity and respect the college fosters open minds, critical thinking and creative approaches to the modern world.

Our college does not stand in isolation. We work closely with other schools, organisations and residents to enrich our offer and allow our young people to understand their place in the local community and their responsibilities within it. At the same time, we empower them to safely use technology and other tools to reach out in the modern world with confidence and aspiration.

First and foremost, our college is a learning environment. There is a relentless drive to offer every student an exceptional education. However, a child's family is the single most influential factor in realising a successful education. Therefore, we emphasise the importance of a family commitment to supporting education at home and ensuring youngsters come to college ready to learn each day.

In this way our partnership will be powerful and significantly enhance our children's life chances.



Building character and resilience

# A Creative Curriculum



Our curriculum offer is simple: broad and balanced with an academic core and at least one arts subject. It combines a foundation in the national curriculum subjects, a focus on academic achievement in English, maths and science with a broader offer of suitable academic, vocational and technical qualifications.

High-quality information, advice and guidance accompanies regular reporting to families and allows informed decisions to be made about appropriate curriculum pathways, qualifications and progression routes beyond the college.

A commitment to the creative arts supports emerging interest as well as developing existing talent. Students have access to modern learning spaces and technologies for media, photography, drama and dance.

Whether a new comer to an instrument or not, we aim to offer an enjoyable musical experience to everyone. Regular music lessons sit alongside peripatetic sessions other opportunities such as the Rye Wurlitzer Academy - a unique project providing

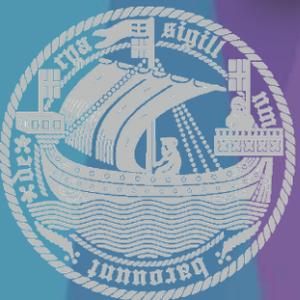
talented children with lessons on an historic theatre pipe organ - to ensure all students value the performing arts.

Additionally, dance and drama are taught within the curriculum as well as through extra-curricular provision. There are regular opportunities to attend live theatre and concerts.

Sport is vital to a healthy lifestyle and the opportunities it offers for leadership significantly contribute to the personal development of students. Physical education is an important part of the curriculum in college, out of college and as an extra-curricular activity.

Our sports teams are achieving ever increasing success whilst individuals are encouraged to pursue their own chosen disciplines to the highest of standards. As well as enjoying access to professional facilities, our young sportsmen and women can follow the Sports Ambassadors programme as part of our work with local primary schools.

*Offering a rounded education*



# A Focus On Learning

Our community works with a clear sense of purpose. Students understand the college is a place of learning - and with commitment comes achievement. They move around the buildings in a quiet, calm and orderly manner and support one another in the classroom.

Colleagues are committed to developing highly effective teaching which is based on learners' active participation and ultimately, hard work and resilience.

Teachers and associates work to engage, stretch and challenge all students. We offer a learning environment that sees strength in welcoming a diverse student population. Our drive to maximise progress goes hand-in-hand with the knowledge that all youngsters are different. Whilst some may require additional support or adjustments others may require exceptional challenge to unlock their potential.

We work with consistent approaches across the college - tailored within each faculty to get the best out of the students. Curriculum planning encourages the development of transferable skills as well as making subject links to exploit common content.

Student achievement is also nurtured with a range of support services including targeted intervention and catch-up provision. We believe our commitment to developing an increasingly inclusive and accessible education not only allows us to meet the needs of individuals but improves the quality of education for all.

Regular assessment and reporting is clear and concise so students understand the expectations placed upon them and actions necessary to meet them. Likewise, families benefit from regular tracking and opportunities to meet with colleagues to discuss the implications of each report.

We believe in being honest and transparent so we may work effectively with our families. Parental engagement with college is essential as is support for learning at home.



*Inspiring confidence*

# An Inclusive Ethos



Students should feel proud that they attend Rye College. Therefore, we engender a sense of responsibility to embody our commitment to excellence. We expect to see respect for the college uniform and a work ethic that acknowledges success comes from personal industry. It is to their credit that our students so evidently care about one another and enjoy celebrating the achievements of others.

We strive to be a happy, safe and welcoming environment where all can achieve irrespective of age, ethnicity or status, ability or disability, faith or belief, gender or sexuality. We actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. However, we do not tolerate extremism, radical beliefs or behaviours that undermine the health and safety of other members of this or the wider community in which we live.

Students benefit from positive relationships with adults based on good communication, mutual respect and a growing sense of maturity. We emphasise the need to resolve issues through discussion and empathy whilst stressing the fact that all actions have a consequence.

We work in partnership with Place2Be, the leading children's mental health charity to provide a range of counselling services to support our youngsters in developing the tools they need to manage their own positive mental health.

Whilst the college benefits greatly from the expertise of a range of tutors in each year group, senior students also offer peer mentoring to incoming youngsters. The honour of being Head boy, Head girl or a member of our student leadership team is annually bestowed on students who embody our ethos and possess the skills to represent the student body at a range of high-profile events.

The college takes a leading role in a growing range of partnerships including an expanding network of local primary schools, churches and neighbourhood projects. With a range of visitors to the college including community leaders, local politicians and other notable guests and speakers, our students benefit from the rich and varied experiences of others. Likewise, students show considerable empathy with others experiencing difficulties or hardship by keenly organising or engaging in charitable events.

*Caring for everyone*



# A Rewarding Future

There is a long tradition of education in Rye that goes back to the foundation of Rye Grammar School in 1636. We are proud of our local heritage and draw on tradition as well as innovation to prepare students for life in the twenty-first century.

Our young people are encouraged to 'think global and act local' so as to understand their responsibilities as worldwide citizens. Their aspirations are continually raised by returning alumni, visiting local dignitaries and notable national influencers.

We work in partnership with other schools, colleges and universities to ensure a wide range of progression routes whether in the nearby coastal region or further afield. Enduring partnerships with local industry and business offer insightful experiences about the world of work. Our 'Success at 16' programme supports access into further and higher education as well as numerous apprenticeship opportunities or training in the work place.

Throughout their college career we provide learners with high-quality information, advice and guidance that leads to practical discussions about future progression.

Each year, as students leave us for fruitful and rewarding adult lives, we prepare for the arrival of youngsters making the transfer to secondary education. We encourage learners from Rye Community Primary School to stay with us and benefit from the continuity of provision whilst warmly welcoming those who join us from other local primary schools.

As we transform and grow, we look to create a culture of continuous improvement that strengthens our college and offers local families and their children an exceptional education.

In this way, we create bright futures for all - today, tomorrow and for generations to come.



*Committing to excellence*

# Creating Bright Futures for ALL

Rye College, The Grove, East Sussex, TN31 7NQ

Visit our website for further information including our Family Handbook

[www.ryecollege.co.uk/parents/family-handbook](http://www.ryecollege.co.uk/parents/family-handbook)

