

Rye

COLLEGE

Rye College

Creating Bright Futures For All



Rye Academy Trust

Prospectus
2017 - 2018

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.

As a member of the Rye Academy Trust, we are part of a family of schools that serve the young people of Rye with an 'all-through experience' from the age of two, truly making us a local community college. 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.

As an organisation we focus on the professional expertise of our teachers and associates, providing continuing professional learning for colleagues in all roles.

We believe our students benefit from creative approaches to teaching and a shared ambition to succeed.

We are proud of the positive reputation our schools have for supporting youngsters in realising their potential and going on to lead fruitful and productive lives.

I hope you take the opportunity to visit our college and engage with our greatest assets - the students who in their conduct represent all we believe in.



Barry Blakelock
Headteacher

Space to learn...



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 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 growth 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 student come to college ready to learn each day.

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



A Creative Curriculum



Our curriculum offer is simple: broad and balanced with an academic core. 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. An emergent singing strategy alongside other opportunities such as our ADAPT Theatre and 'Wurlitzer Academy' - a unique project providing children with regular lessons on an historic theatre pipe organ - ensures all students value the performing arts.

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Ready to learn...

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 learning which is based on students' active participation and, ultimately, hard work.

Teachers and associate colleagues 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 to their experience others may require exceptional challenge or original approaches to unlock their potential.

We work with consistent approaches across the college tailored within each faculty to get the best out of the students. The college encourages the development of transferable skills as well as planning across subjects to exploit synergies and common curriculum content where possible.

Student achievement is also nurtured with a range of support services including catch-up provision, academic tutoring and targeted intervention. 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 transparent and honest so that we may work effectively together - and pull in the same direction.



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.

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 and girl is annually bestowed on students who embody the college ethos and possess the skills to represent the college 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, our students benefit from the rich and varied experiences of others. Similarly, our students show considerable empathy with those experiencing difficulties or hardship by keenly organising or engaging in charitable events.

Education for all...



A Bright 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 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 offers 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 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 to stay with us and benefit from the continuity of an all-through curriculum offer whilst welcoming those who join us from other local primaries schools.

As we 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.





Rye Academy Trust



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Where talents are nurtured...