



**Rye College**  
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Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

## Notes from Parent Forum: 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019

- Choices evening was held; little change in the curriculum on offer – focus on broad and balanced and ensuring that there is a wide range of subjects on offer.
- Curriculum development; families may have heard about an increasing focus on curriculum planning. Over the coming months we will be reviewing the key stage 3 curriculum – families will see change at the end of the academic year in the way we report to parents. The college has started to talk about ‘knowledge’ and the ‘knowledge curriculum’. Hopefully the last report of the year will be in a new format – the key stage 4 reports will stay the same and focus on pupil outcomes. Knowledge curriculum is a national agenda and supported by research evidence. This is about an agenda of increasing expectations of the children; a focus on what children know at the time of reporting rather than a discussion about what a child may or may not get four or five years down the line.
- Increasing focus on the leadership of learning; faculty leaders and other middle leaders experiencing professional development through Aquinas on courses such as AquinasLead, AquinasTeach, Pradah (Preparation for Senior Leadership).
- Work continues with ‘Achievement for All’ who are working on increasing the college’s ability to hold ‘structured conversations’ about learning with an identified cohort of students. Teachers’ ability to hold powerful conversations to raise aspirations with youngsters.
- Mrs Starkey – Premier League Enterprise Programme for Y9 targeted individuals to develop their enterprise, self awareness and learning skills.
- Homework will be an increasing focus over the course of the year. We know that compliance is an issue – the setting and completing of homework. The college has bought a number of resources such as SAM Learning, Hegarty Maths, SENECA.
- Question regarding staffing of GCSE Graphics and consistency. We have developed a contingency plan that redeploys a current member of staff. Concern regarding staffing at KS3 art but again we have re-timetabled to create stability. PE teams – DDO to look into how teams are chosen.
- Communication – question around direct communication with MoS. BBL explained the process – single point of contact through office. BBL discussed two email addresses – attendance and student hub. Some concerns regarding whether replies are getting through even with this single SPoC. Sports events not communicated in a timely manner – St Leonards. Website – is it confusing.
- Building update – not too bad. Maths is now housed in their permanent rooms. Toilet work is in hand (£300,000) and we will move on the main student toilets. Training room is now in place -- assemblies. Have been issues around unexpected areas such as damp in humanities block and tidying up some areas. Project is slightly behind schedule. Some discussion around litter and availability of bins.
- Rye Interim Board – first meeting last week with parent representative Jeremy White. Inc. Trust appointees, Kathy Griffiths, David Bridger, Sue Mordici, Andrew Ferguson, Mary Capon, Jim Sharpe, Alan Powell, and BBL. Meets three times per year. Role is to scrutinise and protect Rye College’s unique identity. Over the time, the board will split into AACs for each school.
- Rye College, along with Rye Primary, has now transferred to Aquinas Trust.