

Friday, 29th June 2018

Dear Parents and Families,

RE: Rye College Ofsted Report – May 2018

Following our inspection on 22nd and 23rd May 2018, Ofsted have now published our final report. I attach a copy of the report with this letter and it also appears on our website www.ryecollege.co.uk.

It is with considerable disappointment I write to inform you our college was considered 'inadequate with serious weaknesses', though 'safeguarding is effective'. In reaching this judgement, inspectors must consider the performance of the college 'over time' since our last inspection – five years ago. Inspectors acknowledge the "significant turbulence in leadership over a number of years" as well as the belief that current leaders are "making the right changes for the benefit of pupils in the school". However, it is clear we must continue to urgently embed the approaches we are taking to improve the quality of education for all our students.

The report also remarks that with newly brokered support, "current leaders and trustees have an accurate understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the school" and "show an absolute determination that pupils from all backgrounds should achieve their potential". Improvements in the students' personal development, behaviour and welfare over the year were accepted with inspectors finding "pupils' welfare... a high priority", "pupils... well cared for and safe" and behaviour to be "improving" whilst "levels of exclusion and absence... reducing".

Whilst the outcome will undoubtedly cause concern for our families, please be assured the report affirms our direction of travel. Trustees and leaders accept the findings of the inspection team in their entirety and acknowledge the clear statements about what needs to be done to further improve. Already, these actions are built into our improvement planning and many are underway.

We would like to invite parents to further discuss this report with senior leaders, as well as the planning in place to rapidly improve the college. A parent meeting will take place on Thursday, 5th July 2018 at 6.30 – 8pm in the Milligan Theatre. Please confirm your attendance, and any specific points you would like to raise, with Sally.Hill@ryeacademytrust.org. Minutes will be published on our website following the meeting for those unable to attend.

Finally, we would like to reiterate our unwavering commitment to the students and families of Rye College. Whilst we may have some distance yet to travel we remain wholly focused on 'creating bright futures for all'.

Yours sincerely,



Barry Blakelock
Executive Headteacher



Andrew Ferguson
Lead Executive