



Rye College

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www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock

Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

3rd February 2020

Dear Parents and Families,

RE: Parental Survey

In December 2019, we conducted a survey of families' views of Rye College and their child's experiences here. We would like to take this opportunity to feedback to you the main messages from the survey and our response to the views expressed.

We greatly value the views of all our community and we are grateful that over a fifth of our families responded. While we are extremely pleased to see that 80% of the respondents said that their children are happy here at Rye College, there were also some clear indications of where families would like us to improve.

For example, views suggested that, while communication has improved, there is still a sense that communication is not timely or detailed enough. Specifically, some families stated that they do not receive enough detail around what their child is learning here. Some families feel that we are clear on how well their child is doing in their work, but we do not provide enough detail about the curriculum they follow. We hope that the work we have been doing to upload curriculum information to the website, including long and medium term learning plans for our knowledge curriculum, indicates progress to address this issue. Please feel free to visit "Our Curriculum" on the website to see what we have achieved so far. Over the coming months, we will be engaging with families to sign-post them to the information and evaluate the quality of the curriculum pages. This is an on-going project, however you will find we have made considerable progress.

The majority of families felt that, where they had concerns, matters were dealt with effectively. However, a number felt that action taken by the school is not communicated to them in a timely fashion, if at all. A number commented that their emails are not responded to. While we have a clear protocol relating to responding to family communication, the fast-paced of the day may mean the team here are not always able to respond to families in the allotted time. We recognise that this is a key area for improvement and we have implemented systems to secure improved communication. For example, we use one point of access for communication whether via telephone and/or email thus allowing for effective signposting of queries. In addition, this allows the office to ensure that all queries are followed up. We have also appointed Directors of Learning for Key Stage 3 and 4, who act as focal points of information, guidance and support for families and students. Mrs. D. Starkey and Mr. P. Harrison, Directors of Learning for KS3 and KS4 respectively, support students to achieve the best they can in their learning and can be contacted by families about any aspect of their child's education.



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The majority of families agreed that Rye College develops its students both academically and personally. However, a minority of parents did not agree that Rye College 'supports my child's wider personal development.' While we place considerable resources into our personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum and the careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG), it is clear that families do not have enough information around them. In addition, while Rye SMART remains an underpinning philosophy for the development of our students, it is not yet fully embedded across the whole of the school.

We have continued over the year to develop the Student Hub to ensure students have access to the support they need. However, we have some work to do in developing a whole school ethos for student well-being. Consequently, the College has embarked on an extensive programme to increase and improve our work on students' personal development. This programme includes training, with the support of the 'Inside Out' programme, in developing teachers' tools to manage behaviour through coaching in the classroom. 'Inside Out' is led by Kit Messenger: a former headteacher with sixteen years' experience and an in-depth expertise in coaching children.

In addition, we are reviewing our comprehensive personal development curriculum. The introduction of the statutory Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum provides the College with an excellent opportunity to revisit our offer. Our work will ensure all students are given opportunities to develop self-awareness and independence in the modern world. The curriculum will provide them with the knowledge and skills required to be resilient and make appropriate choices. We will be contacting families soon regarding the RSHE curriculum and its development at Rye College.

It is clear that most families (72%) feel that the College is improving. Families pointed out that the building work is having a transformative impact on the environment of the school. Families commented, in the free text, that the school is more organised and focused; that the College is calm and orderly; that the quality of teaching and learning is improving; and that these improvements are reflected in the 2019 GCSE results.

We will be asking you to respond to parental surveys at regular intervals in the future to provide us with your feedback and suggestions. Working together in partnership, you and the College will secure our mission to create bright futures for all: transforming life through learning. Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D. Downes
Head of College