



Rye College
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Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Headteacher: Mr Dom Downes

13th July 2023

Dear families,

I am pleased to share with you the outcome letter from Ofsted's recent ungraded inspection of Rye College, Thursday, 29th June.

The inspection focused specifically on the personal development of students and the effectiveness of leadership and management. We are delighted the inspectors found that 'leaders have created a culture of kindness and mutual support' where students 'work together well, encouraging and supporting each other to learn and achieve.'

The inspectors also confirmed that the school's relationship, sex and health education curriculum (RSHE) meets statutory requirements, providing students opportunities to 'tackle a wide range of issues in a thoughtful, well-informed, articulate way' and allowing them to 'debate contentious subjects.'

We are pleased that that letter clearly states that the event that led to the inspection '[does]not reflect pupils' normal experience at school'. We remain committed to offering our community an inclusive education, in line with best practice that prepares our young people for the world in which we live. Therefore, in light of our recent experience, we will also be taking the following actions to build on current practice:

1. All classroom-based staff will receive further training to support them in managing complex and contentious discussions within a classroom setting delivered by an external provider.
2. Although training has already been given to staff delivering the RSHE curriculum, additional training will be provided focusing on protected characteristic status;
3. When the Department for Education provides further guidance to schools on the teaching of gender identity, the College will, of course, implement it and train staff appropriately.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we are continuing to support all those involved. We are committed to working with our staff and students to provide the best education possible. To that end, we will be seeking our parents' views on this and other matters in the coming weeks, to ensure that the approach we take in school is tailored to the community and young people we serve.

Thank you for your on-going support. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D. Downes
Headteacher: Rye College