



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk
www.ryecollege.co.uk

Executive Headteacher: Mr Barry Blakelock
Head of College: Mr Dom Downes

23rd March 2020

Farewell Year 11

Rye College Class of 2020

Dear Student

What a rollercoaster of a ride you have all had! Over the last few years, you have developed so much resilience; something that will help you pave your way through this difficult time. I wanted to take this opportunity to put together a letter from your teachers who may not have a chance to say a proper farewell. I hope this will show you how much each and every one of you is truly appreciated, cared about and valued.

Please enjoy reading these messages and treasure your memories forever.

Mr Beattie

"To my lovely tutor groups and the rest of Yr 11...remember, that as sad and as anti-climactic as this is, you are the first group of students ever, to get out of sitting your GCSE exams!!!! That right there is a silver-lining. You guys have easily been the best Yr 11 this school has ever had. To my absolutely amazing Yr 11 maths class, I would like to thank you for all the maths you have taught me over the last two years. I'm sure it was supposed to be the other way round. I have loved teaching you - you have been the best thing about this job!"

Mr Maxim

"A massive congratulations to an incredibly intelligent and talented year group. Your time in secondary school may not have ended how any of us would have hoped, but you should all leave here with a great sense of pride in all of your achievements. We are all incredibly proud of you, and we have absolute faith that you will all go on to lead successful and fulfilling careers, and lead happy lives. In this very difficult time, it is important you live in the now and look after yourselves and your families. But, make sure you look to the future with the deserved levels excitement and anticipation, too."

Mrs Chillingworth

"From the bottom of my heart I wanted to thank you for being so incredible. I have had the privilege of teaching over half of you this year and those lessons have been the best part of my school day and lessons I always look forward to. It has been amazing to witness how much you have developed and learnt and I hope that, despite not sitting the exam, you feel like the texts and poems we have studied have taught you something deeper and more important than just answering an essay question. English is not a subject that comes easily to a lot of you and I have been so proud to see your confidence and abilities grow across this year and you should feel so proud of yourselves and what you have accomplished. I know that this is a sad and anticlimactic moment, but please use it as an opportunity to instead look back fondly on your time at Rye College and know that the grades you will receive will be earned based on all of your hard work throughout your time here. Students like you remind me why teaching is the best job in the world, so thank you for being you!"



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Mrs Richford

"This year group has been so full of so many special people. I have loved teaching you - even the stubborn ones - and have some amazing memories of you! I hope that you enjoy the amazing futures that I know so many of you are heading towards, and that you have all that you deserve in your future lives. Good luck everyone! Keep calm and carry on cleaning!"

Mr Simmonds

"This is for my Engineering Design students: I say this with complete honesty - I've really enjoyed teaching you lot. As a group of people you are charming and intelligent (and I say this, not just because you are kind enough to laugh at my jokes, but because it is true).

*So: Take care of yourselves, go forth and enjoy life.
And remember the word "Wazzock" - use it wisely..."*

Miss Mann

"Year 11 graphic design: You have shown so much determination and focus throughout your graphics studies, it hasn't always been easy but you have all shone. You have all been an absolute pleasure to work with for the last 2 years. I am so incredibly proud of you and will miss you all very much."

Mrs Wall

"Thank you to the GCSE Drama students for their amazing performances last week. I am so pleased we managed to end our course on a high. You have been so wonderful to teach and have worked with such high levels of communication and teamwork. It has been such a joy to teach you all."

Mrs Harrison

*"I am extremely proud to have taught or known year 11, that they are incredible individuals and I know that they will work hard in their new setting and will be amazing human beings. Maths is such an important part of your future lives, you will discover this in the many years to follow.
To my Maths group, I will never forget you as a class, 'y is greater than boats' is my new favourite phrase! I wish you so much happiness and success in your lives, be amazing."*

Mrs Norris and Mrs Archer

"It's so hard to put into words just how missed our year 11 class will be. Everyday has brought a smile to our faces with things like their fax and vax quotes and by introducing us both to language we never knew existed... Also, our own 'Laurel and Hardy' (you know who you are Will T. and Rudi!!)

We are so proud of the entire group - not only with regards to their academic success, but also the way they have developed as individuals - people to be proud of.

This is just to wish you all well in your bright futures and our English lessons with you will be sorely missed."



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Mrs Starkey

"Through living and working in Rye, I have known so many of you since you were tiny. I have watched some of you progress through nursery and primary school, and now all of you, secondary school. Witnessing you excel not only in school, but also in the wider community or in activities such as dance, cadets, Guides, tennis, football etc and in part time jobs or volunteering, makes me feel like a proud parent of 103 children! I feel so privileged to have been part of your journey - thank you for having me on board. You are all amazing young people, who have demonstrated huge levels of respect, acceptance, appreciation, kindness and love throughout your time here. I would like to wish you all the best of luck in your next steps. Please know that each of you has the power and the knowledge to be what and who you want to be. All you have to do is believe in yourself and grasp every opportunity that comes your way. I will never forget you."

To my History group...I have learnt so much with you over the last 2 years, and I hope you have too?! I will not apologise for my nagging and moaning – it's a part of helping to make you become the wonderful individuals that you are! I am really sad not to be able to finish the course with you and watch your knowledge soar as we neared exams. Believe it or not, I have actually loved every minute of teaching you. I am sure you will now all appreciate the work done by Louis Pasteur in 1861, and the amazing scientists who followed him!

Mr Mason

"I've only known the group for a short period of time however in that time they have shown true character, great humour and friendship to each other and to the sports department. I wish them every success in the future and no matter what hurdles faces them I am sure they will combat it head on as they have shown in their work and commitment to PE and challenge they have had to overcome."

Miss Street

"Year 11, we have learnt together, laughed together and cried together... I will miss you and I really do wish you all the very best in your future endeavours. A pearl of wisdom for the journey ahead: 'unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is ever going to get better it's not!' (Dr Seuss) Go and be great!"

Mr Williams

"You are the first year 11 that I never took on an exams journey from Year 10 mocks until the results day in August. I never got to see you open your results envelopes, usually with your mum or dad, or sometimes with your grandparents. I never got to make sure that I got to position myself so that I could see you open your results, knowing them already myself, just to see the looks on your faces. I never got to see your surprise at how well you did, or the tears in the eyes of those who you made so proud. My part is only a small part in your journey in life, but you are the best year group I have had in that exams hall so far. Your lives are only just beginning. Enjoy your journey. It'll be more fun than you can imagine."



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Miss Kerruish

"I only taught a small group of you and played a small part in your journey. You accepted me late on into your GCSE journey and you have been a fantastic group of dancers and your own choreography pieces were absolutely outstanding and a true credit to all your hard work and dedication to your exams. You must not feel cheated by any of these circumstances, carry on and go on to your future studies with the same dedication you have shown here.

Good luck with everything you do and above all enjoy yourselves, work hard and stay safe"

Mrs Moore

"Throughout your time at Rye College you have seen many changes and you have approached them with enthusiasm and character. The last change could never have been predicted and will likely not occur again.

Good luck with everything you do in the future. You will surprise yourselves with what you can achieve.

Find something you love, do your best and be kind."

Mr Franks

"To the year group that makes me smile, growl, pull my hair out (what's left of it) but above all make me very proud. I have taught a lot of you over the last few years and some of you have had the misfortune to have me for years but I it has been my absolute pleasure to see you grow and develop into amazing young people.

In seeing you grow up and progress this year has been a true pleasure, I have enjoyed every minute of having the honour to be your teacher, whether it be science, physics or maths, or for some of you more than one subject!!

Take care, stay safe and we will see each other again many times in the future and don't forget the many pieces of useless information I have given you over the years."

Mr Harrison

"Don't stop believing, it's not the end of the road. You are the children of the future and the little rays of light that create shiny happy people. It is so sad, so sad, that this not fantasy and are time has been cut short, but please remember that we can always build a treehouse, as no-one can see us, because it's a you and me house.

Thank you to you all for the memories that I will always cherish so deeply."

Miss Carpenter

"You are the first year group I remember when joining the school. We have had our ups and downs over the years BUT please know I am so proud to have known every one of you. You are going to be amazing adults who will go on to change the world. Never give up on your dreams - they do come true!"



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Mrs Fountain

"I am sorry that I have not been in school to wish you a fond farewell. I would like to thank you for the time I have spent with you. You have been courteous, attentive, kind, keen to learn and respectful. I will miss each one of you, and your quirky little ways, which have made it fun and enjoyable to be with you and to teach you (well most of the time anyway). I wish you well on the next stage of your journey and beyond. Remember to treat others as you would wish them to treat you. Have fun and smile. Good luck."

Mr Rickard

"Over the last two years you have worked so hard. Under normal circumstances you would have had the chance to prove yourselves in the summer exams and the joy of collecting your results in August. Please do not feel that your efforts have been in vain. You have proved your ability to us and, hopefully, to yourselves. You will get the qualifications and grades you deserve. Be patient. Be proud. We are proud of you."

The world might be changing but you have a brilliant future to create. Be bold, be ambitious and be the best that you can be.

Don't forget us. We won't forget you. We are all part of the Rye College family, so keep in touch. Wishing you happiness and success in everything you do."

Mrs Willett

"I'm so sorry that things have ended so abruptly but I want you to know that everything you have worked so hard for these last 5 years still really matters! I have loved teaching you and hope that you go on to great success at college and beyond. Remember all that you have learnt and the friendships you have made. Rye really is a special place! Look after yourselves and do your best to be kind to each other and the planet."

Mrs Holmes

"I haven't known you for very long but you are such a fantastic year group. I love the way you have always looked out for each other and also for the younger kids. I wish you all the best for the future and I know each and every one of you will go on to do amazing things."

Mrs Gall

"I can't begin to tell you how incredibly proud I am of you all. We have been on an amazing journey and seen a lot of changes - you are the main reason I have come into work every day. I have seen you develop into such wonderful young adults. I will always have fond memories of you all. Follow your dreams, be brave and be kind. I am looking forward to seeing you all out and about and at the leavers' celebration."

Mr Grove

"It has been my absolute pleasure to teach you. The last four years have flown by and I am sure you will look back on your time here with great love and affection throughout your lives. I wish each and every one of you the very best and look forward to the formal sendoff event, in the hopefully not too distant future."



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Miss Halvey

"Our year 11's, what we can say, the Arts department are so proud of everything you have achieved through your time with us. We have watched you grow into your own person and become an artist in your own right. All we can say that in times of hardship within the arts you as students have been everything and more that we have needed you to be, you have been strong independent hard workers and have not let the hardship impact of your work. You have all amazed us with the ideas and processes that you come up with on a weekly basis. All we can leave you with is that you have filled the art department with laughter, fun, smiles, (a bit of stress), but most importantly hard work. Remember, you have done it; you were not far off of your arts exams; you have got there and you have achieved what you worked hard for."

Mrs Bate

"This morning on my way in Bob Marley was singing in the car & telling me " Don't worry about a thing 'cos every little thing gonna be alright "and I thought of you and your current educational situation. It is sad that the very last part of your school journey has been taken away from you .

But as for the next steps in that journey, just listen to what Bob says because no college, apprenticeship or other further education will turn you away, they need you.

Don't sweat the small stuff. Concentrate on the big stuff that is you and everyone you love and care about.

Remember to eat 'proper' good nutrients to keep that immune system strong.

Don't cry all night (you know who you are) !

Remember to keep laughing.

Remember to have lots of fun.

Just stay safe."

Miss McCarthy

"Year 11, I've seen you face some tough times and I have to tell you how proud I am of your resilience and tenacity. Your perseverance throughout the changes you've faced is just indicative to what a wonderful contribution you are going to make to society. Never give up on those hugely wild dreams you have, because you are going to take the world by storm. With an extra special shout out to the 'arts and crafts' crew, you never gave up in the face of adversity, you are an inspiration to us all. Year 11, keep calm, carry on and go be incredible!"



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Mr. Downes and Mr. Blakelock

*"These are absolutely unprecedented times, ladies and gentlemen, and it is with sadness that we watch you finish your time here at Rye College in such an anti-climactic way. You certainly are unique in one way: the first cohort to leave school without ever sitting formal examinations! However, remember that your future is there for you to make of it what you will. I have always said to you that hard work is key. That doesn't change. **Have big dreams and ambitions. School should have prepared you to be resilient and equipped you with the grit and determination to succeed and overcome the inevitable knock-backs along the way. It's easy to feel defeated at times, but view these moments as a challenge. You will make mistakes, get things wrong or feel that you are going no-where – the world is against you – at points. Persevere because nothing stays the same and you will succeed. Mr. Blakelock and I have been immensely impressed with your approach over the last few years and we are proud that you have been Rye College students! Good luck and best wishes.**"*

To finish off I would like to add that I know you are all devastated that you will not be able to attend your prom in June. I promise that we will not allow your time at Rye College to be unmarked and can assure you that Mrs Chillingworth and I will organise some kind of celebration event for you when the time is right.

In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other. If you need any support in September regarding your next steps, please do not hesitate to contact me on my school email address.

With best wishes,

Mrs Starkey
Learning Director KS4

