



IN TOUCH

www.ryecollege.co.uk



[/ryecollegeuk](https://www.facebook.com/ryecollegeuk)



[@ryecollegeuk](https://twitter.com/ryecollegeuk)

December 2019



Head of College's Message

Dear Parents and families,

Another year draws to a close and the New Year beckons here at Rye College. This has been a momentous year for the school and the successes of the previous year have given us all a new lease of life and ambition. While a few obstacles have tested our resolve, our community has worked hard together to secure the on-going improvements to the College – represented in this summer's results and our current students' attainment.

The students continue to work hard and participate in all the College's and community's activities: they are making a difference. For example, George Williams (Year 9) represented the College at the recent Youth Parliament where issues such as tackling bullying, accessibility and affordability of transport and youth unemployment were discussed. This is one small example of a Rye College student contributing to the community and seeking to create a bright future for us all: I am delighted to say that there are many other shining lights among our student body. I would also like to express my thanks to all of our student ambassadors who, throughout the last two terms, have escorted visitors, such as prospective Year 6 families, around the College. I often receive feedback from visitors who comment on their 'knowledge, politeness and helpfulness': they are a credit to the College and their families.

The staff continue to dedicate themselves to building a College where high expectations and aspirations deliver improved learning. All the team have participated in the wide range of training events we have put on here at Rye College. These have included training delivered by Kit Messenger (Head of Education at Inside Out and Changing Chances) on behaviour management and Alex Quigley (Director of Huntington Research School) on vocabulary in the curriculum. Throughout the last two terms, all of the subject leaders have been developing their Key Stage 3 curricula and their work will soon be visible on our website. This huge body of work around our curriculum is on-going and will remain a focus for the next two years.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Lauren Loveless for her dedication, professionalism and excellence in leading the Art Faculty over the past years. Her impact on the College and its students has been immeasurable. The Art Faculty has been a beacon of excellence throughout her time here and she leaves behind an outstanding legacy. Miss Loveless leaves with our thanks and warm best wishes.

Meanwhile, families continue to work with the College. We held our first Rye College Advisory Council meeting on Tuesday, 1st October 2019 chaired by Mr Jim Sharpe. This meeting highlighted the palpable enthusiasm and support our families give to secure the College's rapid improvement. While the Council have Aquinas appointed members, over half of its membership are parents of Rye College students. The Council fulfils several statutory functions such as hearing appeals and holding the College leaders to account. However, the Council's core function is to advise and act as ambassadors for the College within the local community. For example, promoting the College at local events or establishing contacts with local businesses. I am delighted to have the

AAC members in place and look forward to working with them in the future.

I would like to thank all the families who participated in our 'parent survey' recently. While the survey highlighted a number of areas that we have still to work on, the responses reflected a considerable up-lift in the positive attitudes towards the College's work. Families identified buildings, communication, extra-curricular activities and SEND provision as the main areas for concern. I will be addressing these issues with the AAC at its next meeting and provide you with an update as soon as possible. On the other hand, families' responses indicated that there had been much improvement over the year with many noting that the building work and stability within the College was beginning to have a positive impact.

Soon the builders will have finished their work and left, leaving us to continue our work of creating bright futures. While Rye College students will be enjoying the final day of their well-earned holidays, my colleagues and I will be in Bromley attending the fifth annual Aquinas Conference. Alongside numerous work-shops, Christine Counsell, Education Consultant, will deliver the keynote address on 'Understanding the role of knowledge in the curriculum.' I am confident that this event will give us all at Rye College renewed vigour to continue forging ahead with our ambitious vision to embed the Rye Smart learning culture across our College.

One final note: while the vast majority of our students act and behave in a way that is a credit to you and their College, I do receive a small number of complaints across the year from the public regarding behaviour on the buses and trains. In particular, I have received complaints from users of the 100/101 bus service from Hastings: including, reports of spitting and swearing. I would like to enlist the support of our community and families in ensuring that our children act in a socially minded manner, and not cause offense and upset to others. Meanwhile, I will continue to support the police and transport companies in addressing any anti-social behaviour appropriately.

It just leaves me to say, that I hope that you can all take the time over the Christmas break to enjoy a well-earned rest. I wish you all a very happy, peaceful and relaxing Christmas and New Year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Tuesday, 7th January 2020.

- Mr D Downes, Head of College

Term 3 / Dates for the diary

Date	Event
Mon 6 Jan	Inset Day - College closed
Tue 7 Jan	First day of Term 3 for ALL students
Wed 22 Jan	Year 9 'Choices at 14' Evening
Mon 3 Feb	Year 11 Mock week begins
Wed 5 Feb	Year 9 Parents' Evening

First Day of Term 3 Arrangements

Tuesday 7th January 2020

We will begin on Week 1 on the student timetable

Welcome to the Rye College Interactive Newsletter

Click on the title of any news story to view the full article on our website

Rye College e-Safety News

How do I check the suitability of video games?



Gaming is a massive and enjoyable part of most young people's lives, but it can involve problems via possible exposure to age-inappropriate material, abusive online communication, risky behaviour or hidden costs. You can help keep your child safe by being familiar with the PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system which rates video games according to their content and suitability for different ages. You can access the main PEGI website [here](#) including their searchable database of games.

What is CEOP?



CEOP helps keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse and grooming online. They help thousands of children and young people every year, as well as their parents and carers who have been in a similar situation to you. **CEOP are unable to respond to reports about bullying, fake accounts or account hacking.**

They are here to help and give you advice, and you can make a report directly to them if something has happened to your child online which has made either you or your child feel unsafe, scared or worried. This might be from someone they know in real life, or someone they have only ever met online. [Click here](#) to visit the CEOP website.

Rye College Student Wows at Regional and National Dance Finals

Ellie, in Year 8, represented Rye Dance Centre at the All England Dance National Finals in July.



Dancing in the age 12 character section Ellie danced 'Bottom' from A Midsummer Nights Dream. **She came 1st out of 36 in the regional finals** held in Crawley, which then put her through to dance in the national finals held in Stevenage, where **she achieved an amazing 2nd place!** Well done to Ellie, from everyone at Rye College.

August GCSE Results: All-Round Rises in First Year under New Trust



The first set of GCSE results for Rye College as part of Aquinas were published in August and, whilst only having joined the trust in November of last year, there have been all-round rises across key measures.

In the basic measure of students passing both English and maths, standard passes rose from 50% last year to 56% this year and strong passes rose from 28% to 38%. When considered alongside the performance of other subjects, both rises mean that on average students now leave Rye College with a standard pass in all their qualifications.

Home to School Transport Information



East Sussex County Council have provided us with an information leaflet for parents/carers and pupils regarding home to school transport services. **Please click**

the title of this news story to view.

Rye College Students to Feature in District Football Teams

Two of our Key Stage 3 students have been selected for the South East Sussex Schools district football team.



Liam was part of the u13 district team last year who were runners up in the national competition, and aim to go one better and win it this year. He is Year 9 so will represent the u14 team.

Ruby will be part of the first ever girls district team, so this is particularly exciting. Ruby is in Year 8 so will play in a combined u14 girls team who will be entered into the cup competition.

We are very proud of both students and wish them the best of luck for the season.

Year 7 Students Visit Bridge Point Gallery

On Tuesday 8th October, the Year 7 cohort visited a local gallery as part of a joint History and Art trip.



Students walked from school to the Bridge Point Gallery in Rye to view the Hastings Tapestry. This is a 27 panel work that was created to commemorate the 900th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. It was designed and created by the Royal College of Needlework, taking over a year to make, and is in the same style as the famous Bayeux Tapestry which shows the events of the year 1066 and the decisive Battle of Hastings.

Rye College Launch Breakfast Club

We officially launched our new Breakfast Club at Rye College on Monday 4th November which has proved very popular amongst students already.



Don't forget, **we are able to offer EVERY student a FREE breakfast** consisting of;

- Two pieces of toast, including butter, jam and honey;
- A cup of tea or coffee;
- A cup of milk or fruit juice.

Breakfast Club takes place in our canteen every day from 8.00am to 8.55am. We will stop serving at 8.50am to ensure that students have time to finish their breakfast before Tutor Time.



In addition to the free breakfast items above, a full menu is available to purchase **please click the headline of this article to view the full menu.**

Talented Rye College Student Wins Kickboxing Championship

"Talented Callum, in Year 10, has been attending Hastings Kickboxing Academy since he was 5 years old. Over the past 9 years he has developed his skills to become one of the 'fight team', competing in many competitions all over the South East which has enabled him to fill an impressive trophy cabinet.



Callum has learnt a lot about discipline, diet and working hard to achieve his goals and has had his confidence boosted significantly by training 5 times a week as well as some weekends. Last year he became an assistant coach, helping to teach and share his knowledge.

Callum's biggest test in his career came on Saturday 28th September when he competed in 'HKA Fight Night 10', an event at which was a crowd of over 500 people! Callum was entered into a title match against an opponent he had recently fought, and narrowly lost to, in February. The title match was scheduled for five 1.5 minute rounds which Callum had prepared for by keeping a strict diet and training plan for the previous 8 weeks.

In round one Callum sustained an early barrage from his opponent. Unflustered, he matched it in round two, finding his rhythm, before coming out strong in round three. Callum stuck to his game plan and his strength and accuracy began to show, so much so that his opponents corner had no choice but to throw in the towel and the match was stopped. This was Callum's, in his own words, 'best fight ever' and after showcasing his talent, skill, hard work and knowledge he can officially say that he is now the **Icon Under 60kg Southern Area Champion.**"

- **Words: Mr P Helsdown**

Congratulations from everyone at Rye College and good luck in your future kickboxing career!

Autumn & Winter Canteen Menu



Chartwells, our canteen provider, have informed us that they have updated to the new Autumn and Winter menu (found by clicking the title of this article). The menu works on a rotating 3 week system.

World-Class Valentina Wins Muay Thai Gold for Team England

Valentina, in Year 10, competed for England in the World Championships in October. The world-class Rye College student won gold for Team England in Muay Thai. As well as this, Valentina also captured a silver medal in K1 Kickboxing!



After a relentless couple of days, she held strong both physically and mentally for her team. Valentina was also chosen to represent Team England at the opening ceremony leading up front carrying the flag.

She was totally exhausted and rested and recuperated before getting back in the gym to train for her British title bout later in the year.

A fantastic achievement - congratulations from everyone at Rye College!

Year 11s Excel in Mock Job Interviews

On Wednesday 20th November all of Year 11 took part in a mock job interview. This was run by the EY foundation who specialise in employability skills. Six volunteers including a lawyer, an auditor, a sales executive and a business consultant gave up their time to grill our students on their personal qualities, aspirations, achievements and various real life scenarios. Students found this an invaluable experience. They will receive individual feedback sheets based on their appearance, confidence, body language, depth of answers and eye contact. This will help to boost their confidence in preparation for forthcoming college and job interviews.



All students were praised for their exemplary conduct and the way that they welcomed our visitors - some were even told that if they could, they would give them a job tomorrow! Based on these interviews, our Year 11 have extremely bright futures ahead of them.

Rye College Student to Appear in Peter Pan Pantomime

Hunter, in Year 10, is set to appear as Lost Boy, Ace, in APL Theatres production of Peter Pan at the Eastbourne Hippodrome Theatre over the Christmas season.



Auditions were held in September with over 100 auditionees taking part. After a long and tiring day for Hunter the director made the decision to give him the part of 'Ace'.

Hunter will be performing in 11 of the 21 shows. There are two teams of Lost Boys sharing the roles over the Christmas season. This is Hunter's second pantomime with APL Theatre Productions after he recently appeared in Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs where he played the lead role of 'Jazzy' the dwarf. Congratulations to Hunter and good luck with the upcoming performances!

Geography Club Hunt for Mini Beasts

Year 7 Geography Club students had a great time visiting Rye Nature Reserve this past few weeks. The rangers at the reserve talked to students about the variety of careers they could have working with wildlife. Students got the chance to hunt for mini-beasts on the reserve. The most exciting find being a lizard! All students then went in to the hides to look at the amazing range of birds (over wintering) at the reserve.



Year 9 & 10 History Residential 2020

The residential option for next year is the History trip to Normandy, France. This is specifically aimed at those with a keen interest in WW2 & the Norman Conquest.

We still have a few places remaining. If you are interested in finding out more please email jrichford@ryecollege.co.uk.

Rye College Reading Lists

At Rye College, we recognise the importance for children of all ages to grow up with a rich variety of books as they develop their deep love of reading.



We want to support them in becoming avid and lifelong readers. In addition to unlocking a child's imagination (allowing for a greater degree of creative stimulation), reading is a crucial tool for all children in the development of a range of skills, including reading and writing, and speaking and listening.

It is also invaluable in the extension of vocabulary and the ability to become inquisitive and resourceful, in order to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

With this in mind, we are proud to publish our list of 'recommended reading'. We hope that this, in addition to our exploration of the 'literary canon', promotes a love of reading, along with an appreciation of its importance, to all of our students.

Click the title of this article to view our new Reading Lists.

Rye College Community Food Bank Donation

Wednesday 18th December saw all Tutor Groups in Rye College donate to the Rye Food Bank.

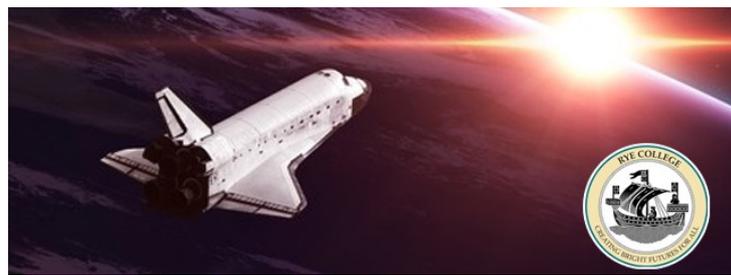


Students were asked, if possible, to bring in any spare food they would like to donate. The only requirement was that the food was in date and that it was able to stay safe in a non-refrigerated environment.

A massive thank you goes to every student, parent and family that donated! For more information about the Rye Food Bank, please [click here](#).

The Neuroscience Revolution is Coming

We are delighted to invite you to a FREE series of 8 innovative seminars about our amazing brains. The 'Neuro-Ninja-Tool-Kit' course by Action Your Potential focuses on how we can develop and be the best version of ourselves every day. [Click here](#) for lots more information.



The Rye Travelling Crib Arrives

Rye Travelling Crib was gratefully received by Head Boy, Jake, and Head Girl, Matilda, from pupils at Rye Community Primary School on Wednesday 11th December.



Both Mr Harrison, Learning Director for KS3, and Miss Martin, Head of School at the Primary, were present for the ceremony.

The Travelling Crib spent the evening at Rye College before being passed on to the next member of our community the following day.

The Rye Travelling Crib Departs

Rye Travelling Crib was passed on to its next destination on Thursday 12th December after spending the evening at Rye College.



Our Head Boy and Girl, along with Mr Harrison, visited Mr & Mrs Orchard in Love Lane to conduct the handing over ceremony.