



# RYE COLLEGE

## *End of Term 4 Newsletter*



March 2023



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## **A MOMENTOUS TERM**

*by Mr Downes, Headteacher*

This newsletter marks the end of a momentous term for Rye College. Across the school, a number of careers orientated events took place to mark National Careers Week. These events included dedicated careers lessons taught within different curriculum areas and a KS3 Careers Event where students met representatives from a wide variety of local businesses and educators. These events also sit alongside our on-going Choices@14 process. Now that the deadline for the Choices@14 preference form has passed, we will be in contact with Y9 families after the Easter break with the next steps.

The Y11s have completed their second round of Pre-Public Examinations, forming a crucial opportunity for students to prepare for the formal examination season that starts Monday, 15th May. We have a number of Easter revision sessions available over the holiday – please visit our website for details.

A number of exciting curriculum and enrichment trips have also taken place to Hastings, Brighton and London. In fact, a group of students are currently in France soaking up the Gallic culture.

And finally, we received the fantastic report from the Ofsted visit in January. Reading the report made me truly humbled by the commitment, positivity, employability, kindness and pride that all of our community – students, families, colleagues and Trust – have displayed over the last few years and know that we have a fantastic foundation to continue to grow from.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to Term 5 on Monday, 17th April.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.



# CAREERS SPOTLIGHT



**WE ARE  
EMPLOYABLE**

Term 4 has been a busy one for Rye College careers activity. Our focus on National Careers Week provided the platform to deliver many different events which spanned all year groups. Year 9 focused on their Choices@14 subject decisions and the University of Brighton have helped our younger students to start thinking about higher education.

## National Careers Week 2023 #NCW2023

National Careers Week provided a multitude of activities and events to inspire our students and focus on 'creating bright futures for all'. Subjects were brought to life as students took on roles such as a data analyst in maths and researcher in history, as well as learning about exciting careers linked to other curriculum areas.

Assemblies were led by Mrs Biddle, who talked to students about careers in marketing. She told them about her exciting jobs in the corporate world in London and Australia, before joining us here at Rye College in her role as Marketing and Communications Officer.

Students studying French and PE subjects attended a Q+A with the Director of Operations for Tackle Africa, a charity that teaches young people in Africa about sexual health through the medium of sport. Students learnt about different jobs in sports development and the importance of studying languages.

26 local shops were kind enough to display QR codes in their windows to support our careers competition. Students had to brave the wet weather all week and scan each code to watch a link to 26 videos of different jobs, noting down information on qualifications, salary and skills required. Thank you to all businesses that were involved.



## Rye College Careers Fair

The highlight of the week was the careers fair for KS3 students. All students in attendance visited the hall to meet representatives from 15 businesses and 2 local colleges. Students visited each stall and demonstrated all of our Rye values through engaging with employers and asking detailed questions about their jobs and businesses. They were, in turn, rewarded with excellent information and plenty of freebies! We were lucky enough to have representatives from various industries including engineering, health and social care, construction, media and communication, hospitality, public services and sport and leisure. We are extremely grateful to all the businesses involved for giving up their valuable time to help inspire our students.



## Work with the University of Brighton

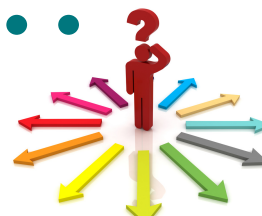
Students in Year 7 took part in the University Game. They met the Outreach Co-ordinator and 7 student ambassadors, who all talked about their education and courses they are studying. The game taught students all about university life including finance, opportunities, accommodation and courses available. The students really enjoyed this activity and the opportunity to start thinking about university already!



On 28th March, 45 Year 8 students visited the University of Brighton Moulsecomb campus. The students had a campus tour, where they saw AI robots, engineering suites, the library, a media and film suite, lecture theatres and seminar rooms and lots of social spaces! Students got to demonstrate their creative skills as a graphic design/media student and create their own zine. They were treated to a pizza lunch in one of the many student canteens, and finished off with a fact-finding prospectus task and a quiz. This was a fantastic trip that was enjoyed by all, and provided our students with lots of inspiration for the future.

## Choices at 14

As part of the Year 9 Choices at 14 programme, our students have received lots of advice and guidance. They have spoken to teachers about their grades and the GCSE courses, they attended a subject market place, learned about relevant labour market information and qualifications in Life Education, received taster sessions and demonstrated excellent employability skills in group interviews with My Future Starts Here.



If you are able to contribute to our careers programme in any way, please contact our careers lead,  
Mrs Starkey via [office@ryecollege.co.uk](mailto:office@ryecollege.co.uk).





WE ARE  
COMMITTED



# HERSTORY OF RYE

*Sharing details of an exciting project that some of our Year 10 students are participating in - HerStory of Rye. This fascinating initiative looks at the oral history of women in Rye, to uncover hidden stories of the town and to celebrate women's working lives throughout the Rye community. One of our students, Ava, gives us an overview of HerStory, sharing her experience of being involved in the project:*

'On the 3rd of March, six Year 10 students participated in an oral history project called 'HerStory'; the project's goal is to highlight the roles of women in Rye and to emphasise their changing roles over time.

Prior to the interviews, we attended training workshops to learn how to interview people and about the importance of oral history. Through this training, we learnt how to actively listen, which is a useful skill to develop to demonstrate your employability. We learnt the terminology used during interviews, along with how to use a voice recorder. A new experience for me.

With the success of this project, I hope to see more projects involving oral history in the future around the school and community. I think interviewing is a useful and important skill to have in the wider world. From my personal experience in this project, I discovered that I improved over time when interviewing. It is a skill I would like to develop further, and I believe lots of fellow students would enjoy learning and contributing to oral history. It was interesting to find out about other people's lives and learn about how Rye has developed over time, and I hope it is further explored within other workshops'.



*Ava interviewing Stacey Caister from Splitz Dance Academy - a former student and successful Rye businesswomen*

The finished oral history information will form a display later this year in the Rye Heritage Centre, which is being funded through the the Heritage Lottery scheme. We look forward to sharing more details later in the year.



## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK

*Our Science Department enthusiastically embraced this awareness week, delivering motivational assemblies under the theme of Connections; between us, our Rye College Value of Kindness and looking after our planet. We also ran in-class competitions for who could build the longest bridge from a set amount of equipment, as well as out of school competitions to demonstrate connections within the human body in the craftiest way.*

Congratulations to our very enthusiastic (and competitive!) bridge building winners:

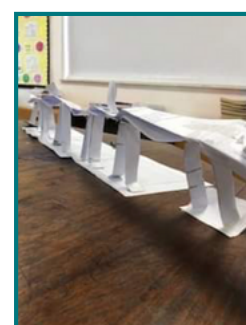
1st Place – with 460cm – Y7s Keegan G and Rowan B

2nd Place – with 426cm – Y7s Cadi L, AJ W-F and Felix M

3rd Place – with 420cm – Y8s Oliver A-H, Daniel J and Ben B-W



Well done to Isla H in Year 9 for her very creative winning 'get crafty' entry: 'Bones connect human bodies – technology connects society'.





# RYE COLLEGE AQUINAS ADVISORY COUNCIL

*Our AAC is an important part of our ongoing transformation, helping to shape the future direction of the College and to preserve its unique identity.*

*The purpose of the AAC is to support, advise and be a critical friend in raising standards of achievement and progress for all learners.*

*Following the call for nominations for parent members on the AAC, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Leigh Beek and Mrs Helen Mucci as parent AAC members and Mr Andrew Ferguson as a Trust Appointed AAC member.*



## **Mrs Leigh Beek**

I am the mother of three children and also have one grandchild by my eldest son. I live in Peasmarsh with my husband and two of my children, both of whom attend Rye College. I work in London in law enforcement, a career I have enjoyed spanning over 30 years with experience in safeguarding adults and children, family liaison, investigation and intelligence. In my spare time I like go to the gym, swimming in the sea (in warmer weather!) and enjoy cooking and spending time with family and friends.

## **Mrs Helen Mucci**

I am a parent to two children with a varied and local background.

I have high aspirations for children's outcomes and well-being along with an enormous sense of pride in our local heritage and communities. My previous experience in providing governance enables me to bring confidence when necessary to ask difficult questions. Also, to offer my perspectives on behalf of the families in our school community, with an appreciation for the demands and reality of local family life.

## **Mr Andrew Ferguson**

I am a qualified accountant and governance professional, with sixteen years' senior experience in the academy sector, following a thirty-year finance and general management career in the manufacturing industry. I live in South Kent where I am a Trustee of a homeless charity and have previously been a governor of both secondary and primary schools. My involvement in Rye College dates back to 2017, when I was involved in the transfer of the two Rye schools to the Aquinas Trust and as Chief Finance Officer of the Trust, I have followed and supported the development of the college and I am looking forward to continuing to do so as a member of the Rye College AAC.

## 5 MINUTES WITH.....

*Getting to know our Rye College team. This term;*

*Miss Street*

*English Teacher and Head of Research & Professional Learning*



**Tell us about your role at Rye College?**

I am a KS3 and KS4 English teacher and I also have the additional responsibility of providing professional mentoring and coaching support for teachers who are new to the profession; a role that I feel privileged to be able to provide as it allows me to work with colleagues who are creative and inspirational.

**What's the best part of your job?**

The best part of my job is working with students, providing them with a safe space to question, think and probe deeper the world that they live in and their roles within it.

**What do you think is the most important skill students need to learn to be successful with English and beyond?**

For me, thinking, creativity and critical questioning are the most important skills that students can have to become successful at English and life, in general. Curiosity and creativity, although having killed a few cats, have inspired the world's most exceptional writers, inventors, engineers, artists, mathematicians, scientists, dancers and so on... So, think, think again and think harder...

**What book changed your outlook on life?**

The book/series that radicalised my life as a young person was Anne of Green Gables: her mantras of "tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it...yet", "it's splendid to find out there are so many kindred spirits in the world" and "it is ever so much easier to be good if your clothes are fashionable" are words that I still live by!

**What's one item you can't leave home without?**

I never leave home without a watch...

**Do you collect anything?**

I collect shoes, handbags (see, I said I still live by Anne's words), books and CDs (although I stream them now).