



Rye College
The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ
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www.ryecollege.co.uk

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

21st May 2021

Dear Families,

I wanted to write to you to offer both reassurance and clarity regarding a number of communications circulating regarding possible changes to our curriculum. You will know, around significant issues such as these, we update parents with any changes as soon as we are able to.

Over the last four years the college has undergone significant transformation with the standard of education undoubtedly improving for all our students. Regular review of curriculum and staffing is part and parcel of running a strong, stable and successful school.

This year, we are formally consulting colleagues on ways to move forward. Regrettably, some aspects of the consultation have found their way into the public domain leading to much untimely speculation. I apologise for any angst and upset this may have caused. Be reassured, I would always let families know of any substantial changes we might be thinking of making as soon as I can.

Our offer always needs to be consulted on as an internal process: proposals change as colleagues share their views and personal circumstances. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to communicate with families whilst this is on-going. Having said that, given the amount of misinformation in the public domain, I would like to clarify the College's intentions:

- **Performing Arts:** We will continue to offer dance and drama in the curriculum and each subject as a GCSE option;
- **Textiles/Graphics:** We try to offer these each year but four qualifications between two art teachers is significant and it is important we don't overstretch the department. This year, we are offering GCSE Photography and GCSE Fine Art. Textiles and Graphics remain on the table in future years – to be determined at the time;
- **Engineering:** There is no decrease to our engineering offer;
- **Computer Science:** We have not offered Computer Science since 2017/18. There are no plans to bring this subject back at present. We are improving our offer at Key Stage 3. There is a national specialist teacher shortage in the subject area;
- **Food:** We would like to offer Food but we are unable to recruit a high-quality teacher;
- **Travel and Tourism:** This subject comes and goes dependant on student uptake. This year demand is fairly low. We will confirm whether this course is running later this term;
- We continue to strengthen our offer in the **Humanities** and **Modern Foreign Languages**.

Curriculum and staff change each year to reflect the young people and adults in the building. There are some things we want to change: we want more teachers delivering their own subject specialism, we want less cover and we want the ways in which subjects are supported to meet the needs of the subject area.

There will be some changes to staffing but these will be kept to a minimum. Colleagues have actively engaged with the consultation and consequently we anticipate very little change.



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Once again, I apologise for any angst and upset this may have caused. As were my original intentions, you can be assured I will write to families with further details after half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Blakelock (Mr.)
Executive Headteacher

