



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

16th July 2020

Dear Families,

We have now almost reached the end of what has been the strangest and most unusual year. I have found myself using the word 'unprecedented' more often than I would like but 'unprecedented' does truly reflect the situation we have all experienced!

The lockdown began on 23rd March and, from that point on, families have been placed under huge pressure as they have juggled their work with home schooling their children. Meanwhile, colleagues at Rye College have had to rapidly get to grips with remote study and working. Like our families, many of us have faced a number of technological and logistical difficulties. We also grappled with keeping in touch with our students over the proceeding weeks and months. This is an area we were not fully confident in until recently and we recognise that we were slow to catch-up. However, we have learnt a number of hard lessons over the last few months and we are confident that, in the event of potential further partial or full closures, we will meet both the educational and pastoral needs of our students fully.

Our focus now is on preparing for full opening in September and the return to normality. While certain day-to-day routines will be adapted to minimise risk related to COVID-19, we know that we will be able to deliver our planned curriculum and timetable with the support of our students and families. These routines will be outlined in an updated Family Guide that will follow shortly: our planning will ensure that we meet the latest guidance from the Government, and deliver a safe and secure learning environment.

Key Worker, Y10 Extended and Additional Provisions

The College closes for summer at 13:00pm on Tuesday, 21st July. Therefore, there will no Y10 Extended Provision on that day and all other provisions will close at 13:00pm.

Summer Work

On **Monday 20th July**, Curriculum Leaders will publish checklists via ClassCharts to enable students to see what they have/have not completed, and for families to support their children throughout the summer in the completion of any incomplete activities and projects. All resources uploaded by teachers every week are still available for use, as a means of support and reference.

Year 11 Results Day

We will be sending our Y11 families a letter shortly outlining our plans for **Thursday, 20th August**, Results Day. We intend to open to allow students to collect their GCSE results, and access advice and guidance for their next steps. Students will be provided with allocated time slots and numbers will be strictly limited. Our plans are subject to change as we respond to advice and guidance both nationally and locally. Any changes will be communicated to families as soon as possible.



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September 2020

We would like to outline a few key points for your preparations for the return of your children to Rye College on Thursday, 3rd September.

Uniform

Students must return wearing the Rye College uniform. There will be a phased introduction of new uniform items from September 2020, when:

- New Year 7 should wear the refreshed Peacocke uniform in full;
- Year 8 and 9 can wear the purple uniform until they have grown out of it or items need replacing at which point Peacocke items should replace purple items;
- Year 10 and 11 can remain in the purple uniform whilst stocks remain with our supplier after which a mixture of both uniforms can be worn should the need arise.

Furthermore, it is vital that students have all the relevant required equipment with them as we will need to restrict the sharing of stationery. Please refer to the Family Handbook for further guidance.

Thursday, 3rd September

All students are expected to return to school on the above date. We are going to stagger the start of the day to allow students time to be informed of and understand our expectations relating to procedures and protocols.

- New Year 7s are to arrive for 9:00am;
- All other students are to arrive for 10:00am.

All students must enter the school via the back gate entrance. This is located via Freedom Leisure carpark. Students will be directed to their relevant meeting points from there. Please note that the College reception will be closed and families should contact the school via email or telephone to make an appointment.

We will be communicating with you over the coming weeks, providing more detail around the re-opening of the College for all students in September.

It only goes for me now to thank you all for your on-going support and to wish you a restful summer. It will be, hopefully, a time where we can all relax, enjoy beautiful weather and spend time with our families. It will give us all an opportunity to recharge our batteries ready for an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. D. Downes
Head of College