



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

9th December 2020

Dear families,

As we fast approach the end of an extraordinary term and start a most unusual Christmas holidays, I wanted to take the opportunity to update you on a number of matters.

End of Term: Thursday, 17th December 2020

In line with Government guidance, we will be pulling forward a staff training day to Friday, 18th December. **Therefore, the last day of term for students will be Thursday, 17th December.**

In keeping with tradition, we will all be wearing something seasonal for the day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper to bring a festive end to the year. **Students are not required to wear uniform on the day but must be mindful of the weather and wear appropriate clothing for school.** The students will follow their normal timetable and be a full day.

Rye Food Bank Collection

We are asking families to once again **contribute to the Rye Food bank collection via the College.** Students should bring in items of food that is non-perishable and non-food items, such as: cereal, soup, pasta, tinned food, toiletries and hygiene products. These items can be dropped off at reception with Mrs. Davis during the week beginning 14th December.

COVID19: 18th December - 23rd December

Between 18th December – 23rd December, families are required to notify the school, if their child has tested positive for COVID-19 and developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school. Please email studentattendance@ryecollege.co.uk with details between 10:00am-13:00pm.

Start of Term: Tuesday, 5th January 2021

Rye College will be closed to students on Monday, 4th January 2021: colleagues will be working together to prepare for the forth-coming term. **Rye College will open Tuesday, 5th January for all students.** We expect all students to attend in their uniform. This will be a crucial time for all our students as we continue to build on the previous terms' work and recover learning.



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A reminder regarding uniform:

College Blazer White Shirt and school tie College jumper Black trousers or skirt (Jeans are not acceptable) All black trainers.	PE uniform: Red College top Black jogging/tracksuit trousers NO HOODIES can be worn in PE.
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Year 11 Pre-public Examinations (mock) weeks: Tuesday, 5th January – Friday, 15th January 2021

For all Year 11 students, mocks will begin the first two weeks back, and families will have received communication from Mr. Rickard providing the schedule and preparation advice (www.ryecollege.co.uk/curriculum/examinformation). The mock examinations will provide the students and teaching staff with an excellent opportunity to prepare for the final examinations in the Summer. While there remains further detail to be outlined around exactly what the Summer examinations will contain, it is clear that the Government plan for them to go ahead. Therefore, it is vital that Year 11 students utilise the time they have left to revise and prepare effectively.

COVID-19 procedures and guidelines

COVID-19 continues to dominate our lives and place considerable restrictions on our day-to-day actions: this is true at home and here at school. While we are delighted to celebrate the launch of CV vaccines as I write across the UK, we must continue to reinforce key messages around social distancing, increased hand cleaning, and the wearing of masks.

We have worked hard with all our students to educate them around expectations in school and when travelling to and from school. Unfortunately, this remains an area of considerable concern where some of our students fail to wear masks on public transport and we continue to receive messages from members of the community regarding this. While it is the responsibility of families to ensure that their children have face-coverings, we have provided over four hundred face masks to students from the beginning of the school year.

Students MUST wear face coverings (unless exempt) and maintain social distance when using public transport and moving through the school buildings. This will remain the case in January. However, from 5th January, we are no longer in a position to provide face-masks free of charge and will charge families a 'cost of purchase' price for any face-mask we provide.



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Parents' Evenings

Owing to CV19 restrictions around large gatherings, we have moved our parents' evenings on-line. Using our current booking system, families can book virtual meetings with staff and access the meetings via their smart phones or laptops. We have been delighted with the process so far and hope that families have found the experience informative and accessible. We would encourage families to get in touch with us if they experience any problems and respond to the surveys we send out after a parent evening. These surveys will inform our decisions moving forward.

Families will be contacted separately in the near future regarding specific Year group Parents' Evenings:

- Year 7 - Wednesday, 16th December 2020
- Year 8 - Wednesday, 27th January 2021
- Year 9 - Wednesday, 10th February 2021

Damage to school property

From time to time, we experience incidents of thoughtlessness resulting in physical damage to school property. I would like to remind you that we take a zero-tolerance approach and invoice families directly to reclaim costs incurred in rectifying the damage. We are proud of our ongoing journey to improve our school environment and ask for your support in sharing this message with students.

And finally...

I would like to thank you all for your unceasing support, especially during these most difficult of times nationally. Please take the holidays as an opportunity to rest and relax, spend time with loved ones, and remain safe.

Mr. D. Downes
Head of College