



Term 2 2024_25

Rye College Newsletter



Welcome to the Rye College End of Term Newsletter



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Welcome
Mr. D. Downes
Head Teacher

Dear families,

This is the last newsletter from us in 2024 and with it we wish all of our community a restful festive break over Christmas and Happy New Year.

It is the time of year for reflection, remembering all of the highlights of 2024. It has been a very busy year and, while the school can celebrate its ongoing growth (including, the highest numbers of prospective families choosing Rye College for their child to join in Y7 2025), there are so many moments where the children have excelled themselves. From hard work in lessons, achievements in formal examinations, excellence in sporting events, participation in extra-curricula activities, the spirit of inclusion on the playground, to meeting the constituency Member of Parliament, to the creative performances on stage, all of the children have shown the Rye College values of pride, commitment, employability, kindness and positivity.

I would like to thank all of our families who have attended our events, supporting their child's growth and education. The relationship between school and family is a vital part of any child's education and we recognise that it is not always easy for families to attend events such as Progress Evenings, Meet the Mentor, or the Creative Arts Evening. To this end, we have included a survey in the newsletter to gather your views on our family events.

A Spectacular Creative Arts Evening

We are thrilled to report on the resounding success of the winter Creative Arts evening. Over 130 students showcased their exceptional talents during the fast-paced and eventful performance. The audience was provided with a true celebration of creativity, featuring a vibrant mix of music, drama, and dance performances. The performers delivered outstanding individual and group performances, leaving the audience of family and friends in awe. The evening highlighted the immense talent across our school and was a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and teachers. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this wonderful event.

Science Rooms: A Hub of Engagement

We are pleased to share that our newly refurbished Science rooms have been in use for two terms, offering students access to up-to-date learning resources. These modern facilities have greatly enhanced student engagement and enthusiasm for learning in science subjects. Our investment in these resources is part of our commitment to providing an exceptional educational environment that inspires curiosity and innovation among our students. We look forward to seeing the continued growth and interest in science across our school community.

Celebrating Our Careers Achievements

We are proud to announce that our school has retained its Investors in Careers standard, recognising our ongoing efforts to prepare students for the wide world of employment. This achievement reflects the dedication of all our colleagues who prioritise career education and guidance. A special mention goes to Mrs. Starkey, who has been instrumental in leading our Careers programme. Her passion and commitment ensure that our students receive valuable insights and opportunities to explore a wide variety of career paths. Congratulations to everyone involved in maintaining this prestigious standard!

And finally...A fond farewell Mrs. Norris

At the of this term, we bid a fond farewell to Mrs. Norris, who has taught English here since 2006. Over the last eighteen years, Mrs. Norris has dedicated herself to the students of Rye College and proven to be an exceptional Y7 mentor. We wish her a happy, restful, and fulfilling retirement.

Student Leadership

A round up of a very busy couple of terms by Year 11

Student Leader Wilma



Every Christmas at Rye College, we celebrate Christmas Jumper Day with a food bank donation drive to support our local community - and this was our best donation year yet!

Over three million people across the UK used a food bank this year, and this only increases across the Christmas period as costs rise. One of our most important values as a school is to be kind; this year, our students exemplified that, with such a huge volume of donations given, this year became our biggest year ever. Year 7 Mentor Groups exemplified this value by generously donating handmade Christmas cards alongside their food bank donations - some beautiful cards were created and hopefully will bring a smile to those who receive them this Christmas!



Staff and our Student Leadership team organised this event, spending Thursday morning visiting Mentor Groups to remind them to bring donations to the collection point and loading them into the delivery van for the food bank.

We've Been Busy....

Over the last two terms, our Student Leadership team has performed a variety of roles including; meeting our local MP, representing Rye College at the Rye Remembrance Service, raising money for charity on non-uniform days and at bake sales, hosting assemblies on Student Leadership, campaigning to make our school more environmentally friendly. We've supported lots of important Rye College events such as our Creative Arts Evening, Christmas Lunch, Year 7 Halloween Disco and Open Evening and Open Mornings!

We have lots more planned for next term - watch this space....



Christmas Activities

Term 2 brings special festive events that our students always thoroughly enjoy

Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day: A Festive Celebration!

The festive spirit was in full swing as students and staff celebrated Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day! The halls were alive with laughter, joy, and a sea of colourful, creative, and quirky jumpers – from classic Christmas patterns to jumpers featuring twinkling lights and jingling bells!



Our school canteen team outdid themselves with a delicious traditional Christmas meal, complete with roast turkey (or a vegetarian alternative), all the trimmings, and a scrumptious dessert to finish. It was heartwarming to see everyone come together to share a meal and enjoy the festive cheer.

Christmas Jumper Day wasn't just about looking fabulous – it was also about giving back. Thanks to all the students who brought in a food bank donation, supporting those in need this Christmas.

Thank you to everyone who participated, from wearing jumpers to helping organise the day, making it a memorable event for our school community.



A Big Festive Cheer for Our Talented Artists!

We were thrilled to run a Christmas Card Competition for our students. Working in collaboration with Sunflower Charity Shop and The Strand Quay Gallery, who kindly created, judged, and donated prizes for the artistic 'Christmas Scene' competition, as part of The Rye Christmas Festival.

Congratulations to our winners:

- **1st prize** – Olivia, Year 7 for your cheeky Christmas Horse!
- **2nd prize** – John, Year 9 for a fabulous Christmas Dinner Spread!
- **3rd prize** – Dolly, Year 7 for your lovely Mr & Mrs Snowman!
- **Special Design Mention** – Arrietty, Year 7 for your beautiful Christmas Tree watercolour

We were delighted to join some of the winners as they received prizes from Andy Stuart, The Mayor of Rye.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to our wonderfully supportive Rye business community.



Olivia's winning design was used for our Rye College Christmas Card



A Spectacular Creative Arts Evening

By Mrs. Greenough, Head of Performing Arts

Our Performing Arts Students worked extremely hard towards our Creative Arts Evening and what a show they produced. It was a true celebration of the arts. They demonstrated work in all three disciplines and showed what a committed and dedicated group of students they are. Their choreography was outstanding with clear meaning and intention while their drama work showed fantastic characterisation and versatility. The musical work highlighted amazing compositional work as well as showing a talent for many different instruments. These incredible performances were also supported by many staff and students from the wider community of Rye College. It was a great team effort and makes me very proud to work at Rye College.

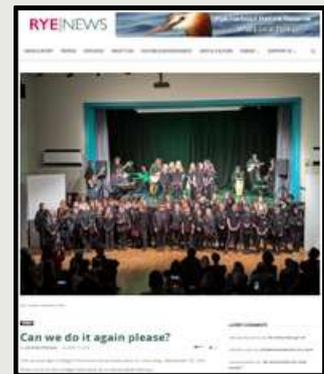


I look forward to our future shows and working with our wonderful performing artists.

Check out our Rye Press Club exclusive concert review in the latest edition of Rye News.

In this article, our talented team of student writers dive into the highlights of the concert, share behind-the-scenes moments, and celebrate the community spirit that made the night unforgettable.

Click the image to read the full article.



Photography Talent

Congratulations to Freddie H in Year 11 for these amazing photography submissions to the London Camera Exchange, Photographer of the Year 2025.

Click on the photograph to link through to submit a vote for Freddie!



Good luck, we're keeping everything crossed for you!

Careers News

A round up from Mrs. Starkey on an eventful term of Careers activities

Celebrating Excellence in Careers Education!

We are delighted to announce that on 15th November 2024 Rye College was awarded The Quality in Careers Standard in recognition of our excellent programme of Careers Education and Guidance for the fourth consecutive time. Rye College has demonstrated a commitment to providing outstanding provision for career learning and preparing students for their future. The award accredited by CSW Investor in Careers was graded as 'fully meeting all the accreditation criteria incorporating the Gatsby Benchmarks.'

The Quality in Careers Standard is the national quality award for careers education, information, advice, and guidance (CEIAG) and is awarded to schools and education providers who can demonstrate the importance they place on careers and how they support students to make decisions about their life after school. A huge thank you to Mrs Starkey, our Careers Lead, dedicated staff, and the supportive local providers and business community who have helped us to achieve this proud accolade!



Careers and Life Education Events This Term

This term has been action-packed with activities for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 11.

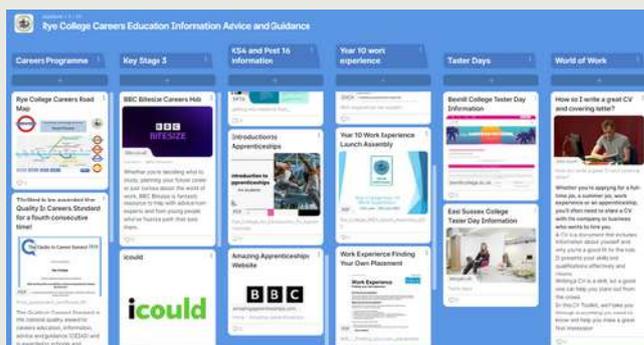
- **Year 7** started their 'Journey to the Future' working with independent careers adviser Wendy Coxeter to explore future planning, aspirations, and the evolving job market. They also enjoyed a performance called 'Look up!' focusing on responsible behaviours around road safety.
- **Year 8** engaged in a 'Day in the Life' workshop, focusing on employability skills and career opportunities with help from volunteers including General Dynamics, Herrington's Solicitors, RX Architects, and local professionals.
- **Year 9** students watched a powerful performance called 'Calling It Out' about healthy and unhealthy relationships.
- **Year 11** prepared for post-16 progression with presentations from local providers and ASK apprenticeships, plus an assessment centre and interview workshop ahead of next term's mock interviews. They also watched the hard-hitting 'Take a Second' performance, with a focus on being safe as a passenger and the general behaviour of young drivers.



Looking ahead to National Careers Week in March, we welcome volunteers to support by speaking to classes, delivering workshops, or attending our KS3 careers fair. Reach out if you're interested - office@ryecollege.co.uk.

Explore Your Future: Introducing Our Careers Padlet!

We are excited to announce a new resource to help students, families, staff, alumni, and employers explore our career programme, and career pathways, develop skills for the future, and discover opportunities that align with their interests and aspirations: our Careers Padlet!



This dynamic, interactive platform serves as a one-stop hub for:

- **Career Exploration:** Learn about diverse professions and industries.
- **Opportunities:** Find taster days, courses, workshops, and events.
- **Guidance:** Access tips on resume writing, interview preparation, and college planning.
- **Inspiration:** Read success stories and insights from professionals.

We encourage students and families to explore and share this valuable tool. You can access the [Rye College Careers Padlet here](#).

Meet our Team

5 Minutes with...

Mr. Wynne, Head of History

Tell us about your role at Rye College?

I am the subject leader for History.



Mr. Wynne has entertained us all this week with his impressive collection of Christmas outfits!

What's the best part of your job?

Having worked in retail and customer service, I am thrilled and delighted to be able to teach about history and share my enjoyment of the past.

What do you think is the most important skill students need to learn to be successful in History and beyond?

The most important skill anyone needs to learn about history is the ability to put yourself in the shoes of the people of the past. From peasants to emperors, to use the knowledge of the past to be able to think what did that person do, or what do they think about something.

Tell us about a place you've traveled to that left a lasting impression on you

Auschwitz in Poland. The cold stark reality of the end of the dehumanization of people and the politics of mass murder.

What film changed your outlook on life?

My all-time favourite film to watch is Mean Girls. It is a funny take on how relationships change and develop in different environments and a cutting social commentary. Of course, I also wear pink on Wednesdays.

What is one thing that instantly makes your day better?

I love a Twix...



Over to you....

Your Feedback - Progress Evenings

Your experience and opinions are incredibly important to us as we aim to make family events as meaningful and effective as possible for both parents and students.

Please find a short survey link below which is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts about our Progress Evening programme and how we can improve future events. Your responses will help us create a better experience for all families.

The survey will take a few minutes to complete, and all feedback will remain confidential.

[Click here to complete the online Progress Evening Survey.](#)

Thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Rye College
Rye College Parents' Evening System
Welcome to the Rye College parents' evening booking system.
Appointments can be amended via a link from the email confirmation - please ensure your email address is correct.

Your Details

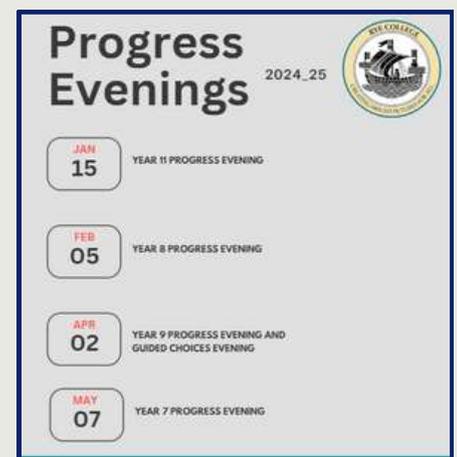
Title First Name Surname
[Dropdown] [Text] [Text]

Email Confirm Email
[Text] [Text]

Student's Details

First Name Surname Date of Birth
[Text] [Text] [Dropdown] [Dropdown] [Dropdown]

Log In



What's Ahead

Looking forward to Term 3
Key dates for your diary



Date	Activity
07/01/2025	Start of Term 3 - Week B Timetable
15/01/2025	Year 11 Progress Evening
17/01/2025	Year 11 Mock Interviews
27/01/2025	Year 9 Tetanus Booster Vaccination Programme
29/01/2025	Year 11 Positive Destinations Workshops
05/02/2025	Year 8 Progress Evening
06/02/2025	Family Coffee Morning 10 - 11am
13/02/2025	Last Day of Term 3
14/02/2025 - 21/02/205	February Half-Term Break
24/02/2025	Start of Term 4

Support for families over the Festive Season

The festive season can be a difficult time for many people.

Please see the link below to lots of local wellbeing support organisations.

[Local Wellbeing Support Organisations.](#)



EasyFundraising

Help us fundraise through your Christmas shopping!

Sign up to easyfundraising.org.uk, make your purchases through your favourite brands and Rye College gets a donation which we use for student enrichment activities.

