



Rye College

The Grove, Rye, East Sussex TN31 7NQ

T: 01797 222545 E: office@ryecollege.co.uk

www.ryecollege.co.uk

Head Teacher: Mr. D. Downes

April 2024

Dear families,

RE: Information on extending the school day from September 2024

I am writing to inform you of a change to the timing of the school day at Rye College. From September 2024, we will extend the school day by **10 minutes** for all students. This will mean school will finish at 3.30pm instead of 3.20pm as we do now.

The reasons for this change are twofold:

- i. In 2022, UK Government published details of a **new expectation** that state-funded mainstream schools should deliver a school week of at least **32 hours 30 minutes** by September 2024. Our school week is currently **31 hours 40 minutes**. The new expectation is designed to ensure sufficient time for delivery of a high-quality curriculum. Further details of the expectation can be found at [Length of the school week: minimum expectation - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/length-of-the-school-week-minimum-expectation) (www.gov.uk).
- ii. Historically, our school day has been a little shorter than some other schools. This means more is expected of our students and teachers in less time. We believe that 32 hours 30 minutes education per week is an **entitlement** that will support more students accessing a full, broad and balanced curriculum.

In response to student voice, we would initially focus the additional time on expanding **Life Education** (Personal, Social and Health Education).

To maintain an orderly pick-up across the school site, we have considered the finishing time of Rye Community Primary school as part of the proposal. We are also consulting with East Sussex County Council which runs dedicated school transport as well as companies that run public transport. In response, the local authority has reassured us that the dedicated school bus service to **Pett** will accommodate any change to the end of the school day. At present, we believe current public transport arrangements will meet the needs of young people leaving school at the new time however we continue to consult with providers.

We appreciate this may affect some families in terms of childcare or working arrangements. We hope the timeline will minimise any disruption. If you would like to share your views, please email office@ryecollege.co.uk or write to me at **Rye College, The Grove, RYE TN31 7NQ**.

A copy of this letter will be available on our website.



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I genuinely believe these proposals will be of significant benefit to all our children and young people.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D. Downes
Head Teacher

