



Rye College & Rye Studio

The Grove

Rye

East Sussex

TN31 7NQ

Headteacher: Barry Blakelock

Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Stakeholder,

**RE: Consultation on Changing the Times of the School Day from Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

The Trustees of Rye College and Studio School have asked me to write to you, as we seek to review the hours of the college and studio school day with effect from **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April 2018**.

We are proposing to change the start of the day to better accommodate local transport arrangements and increase the number of students able to start punctually. For some time the start of the school day has sat uncomfortably close to the arrival of the Ashford and Hastings trains at 8.55am and 8.56am respectively. The four or five minute margin in addition to any delay on either line has meant that many students arrive after the current 9.00am start time. The formal start time is undermined by the arrival of the trains and focus on education is hampered by a regular 'soft start' to the school day.

**Details of the Proposal from April 2018**

In both college and studio school:

- The school day will start 15 minutes later;
- Students should be in their tutor groups to begin promptly at 9.15am;
- The school day will end 15 minutes later at 3.35pm;
- The structure of the day will remain the same 6 periods, break and lunch;
- After-school clubs and activities will continue as advertised.

As part of this consultation we will be contacting the following stakeholders:

- Students, their parents and families;
- Rye Community Primary School;
- East Sussex County Council;
- Local bus companies including Renown Coaches and Stagecoach;
- Southern Trains.

Below we include information about current public transport arrangements. We believe starting the school day at 9.15am will not adversely affect any students travelling to Rye on public transport. We also believe that ending the school day at 3.35pm will enable students to catch all appropriate transport within reasonable time with the exception of bus numbers #313 and #553. We will be discussing the timings of these routes with the relevant bus companies.

	ARRIVES AT...				DEPARTS AT...			
<b>Bus 342*</b>		0824	0840		1533	1551	1613	1631
<b>Bus 311 (Pett)</b>		0832				1545		
<b>Bus 312* (Tenterden)</b>		0822		0945	1452		1600	
<b>Bus 313* (Northiam)</b>	0738	0835		0930		1533		1717
<b>Bus 100 (Hastings)</b>	0747	0846		0958	1444	1544	1644	
<b>Bus 100 (Dover)</b>	0725	0844		0944	1505		1605	
<b>Bus 101 (Hastings)</b>	0748	0830		0930	1414	1534	1614	
<b>Bus 101 (Lydd)</b>					1435		1645	
<b>Bus 553 (Brookland)</b>		0838				1525		
<b>Train (Ashford)</b>	0745	0802	0855	0915	1456	1556	1656	
<b>Train (Hastings)</b>	0738		0856	0956	1455	1555	1655	

\* Furthermore, we have recently been informed that East Sussex County Council will terminate the contract for running buses, #312, 313 and 342 with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017. The reasons given to withdraw from the contract are costs in providing the service are higher than anticipated, as well as lower than expected income from service users. The County Council is seeking prices from other operators to provide a broadly similar replacement service, though individual journeys are expected to change. The County Council expects to provide news of the replacement bus service arrangements by the end of November, in readiness for their start after Christmas. Note that journeys operated by Rambler Coaches are not expected to be affected.

As part of this consultation we will be contacting the County Council Transport Hub to ensure that any new services best reflect any potential changes at Rye College and Studio School.

It is important we receive the views of all stakeholders as part of the consultation. We will therefore be holding a public meeting at which we will outline our plans and answer any questions. The meeting will be held at **6.00pm on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017** in the Milligan Theatre. Alternatively, views can be shared at [office@ryeacademytrust.org](mailto:office@ryeacademytrust.org) (FAO: School Day Consultation).

The consultation will close at 5pm on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 after which we will share the questions raised along with responses. The trustees will meet to make their final decision before the end of term.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Blakelock

Headteacher  
 Rye College and Studio School