

20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parent(s) / Carer(s)

Firstly, thank you for your support this half term in ensuring that students attend school regularly, wear their uniform correctly, behave well, have good attitudes to learning and complete their homework. Your role in ensuring this happens is much appreciated.

As you know we have been focussing on improving behaviour and attendance. Poor attendance is one of the biggest factors in students not achieving and fulfilling their potential. Attendance is improving but still needs to be even better. We would ask that you try to encourage your child(ren) to attend as often as is possible to ensure they are not missing out on learning and in turn not making the necessary progress for them to fulfil their potential. Poor behaviour in the academy impacts on the learning, and sometimes the safety, of other students, and is something we take very seriously.

I'm very pleased to report that the students have engaged well with the new behaviour policy and have shown great enthusiasm at the introduction of the new rewards for their positive effort and attendance.

I am pleased to report that in general the behaviour of our students in the local community on their way into school and going home has improved, and I would like to ask for your continued support in ensuring that our students and your children are respectful and behave well in the local community. You may be aware that there have been several incidents at 3:15 pm involving youths, not from our academy, approaching the school site looking to cause trouble. Our staff continue to monitor the situation closely and the Police are involved and investigating.

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents and carers that you should check your child's planner on a regular basis. The student planner records homework, behaviour and a host of other information that you should be aware of. Detentions are now recorded in student planners so it is important you ask your children to show you them so you are aware of any detentions they may have – hopefully none! Similarly, you have the right to access your child's information on the academy's data system, Progresso. If you don't already have access, please email [progresso@ryehills.rac.sch.uk](mailto:progresso@ryehills.rac.sch.uk) to register. There is now a FAQs document on the school website which you may find helpful if you have any queries and our Twitter feed is regularly updated so you know what is going on in the academy.

As the dark nights and cold weather approach, please could I remind anyone dropping-off or collecting students in their cars, to do so considerately and not to block the car parks or park in the disabled bays. Observing the one-way system ensures we keep everyone safe.

I hope that the students have an enjoyable half term and thank you again for your continued support.

With kind regards



**Mrs C. Waugh**  
Head of School

# NEWSLETTER

## Royal Marines Visit

On **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September** the Royal Marines visited Rye Hills to work with some of our Y10 and 11 students. Pupils attended a presentation and then took part in an hour long military style fitness circuit.



## Careers Fair

We held our annual Careers Fair on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September**. Over 20 representatives from local colleges, training/apprenticeship providers and employers attended the event including our school business link Elring Klinger. The event was aimed at Years 9, 10 and 11 and we had a fantastic turn out.

## Steph McGovern in School

Award winning BBC broadcaster Steph McGovern visited Rye Hills on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October** to deliver an inspirational and motivational assembly to our Year 11 students. Pupils were able to ask questions during the presentation as well as speak to Steph afterwards.

## School Council

Pupils attended assemblies on the topic of Student Voice this term. Year 10 students were then encouraged to apply for the roles of Head Boy/Head Girl. We now have 4 candidates for the role of Head Boy and 9 candidates for the role of Head Girl. They will each produce a presentation for their peers in assemblies after half term and then students and staff will cast their votes. Each form group must also nominate a student representative.

## Enterprise and Financial Capability Drop Down Morning

On **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**, staff and students at Rye Hills Academy took part in an Enterprise and Financial Capability drop down event. Students learned about entrepreneurship and had opportunity to engage in team tasks, developing and planning new ideas and products that they went on to pitch to their classes.

From self-heating/ cooling beds to robotic guide dogs, trainers with changeable soles to exciting new theme park rides, our students came up with some brilliantly creative and innovative ideas. Watch out Alan Sugar!

## Pupils Selected for District Football Teams

Rye Hills Academy pupils competed against pupils from other schools in the area for a place in the District Teams. Congratulations to the 3 Year 7 boys, 2 Year 9 boys and the Year 11 boy who were selected.

### **Kalisher Trust Event**

On **Friday 13th October** 7 x Year 10 students attended the Kalisher Trust Event at Sacred Heart School. The Kalisher Trust are a group of barristers who work closely with students who have the potential to work within the legal system. They run workshops to develop students lateral thinking, oracy and confidence through a series of activities based in the courtroom. Pupils worked in 6 teams with students from Sacred Heart, St. Peter's and Hills View Academy and the barristers.



### **NCS**

We are delighted to announce that Rye Hills Academy is the top performing school in Redcar & Cleveland for pupil engagement in the National Citizen Service (NCS) summer programme. Head of Aspirations, Mr Lane, attended the awards ceremony on **Thursday 19th October** in Newcastle to collect our trophy.

### **Year 9 World of Work English Event at Inspire 2 Learn**

On **Monday 2nd October** 15 Year 9 students attended the English World of Work day along with four other secondary schools at Inspire 2 Learn. The day was set out in a carousel format and pupils took part in 4 workshops with employers including an engineer, a trading standards officer, a copywriter and an advertiser.

### **Year 8 Aspirations Event at Inspire 2 Learn**

On **Wednesday 18th October** 14 students attended the Year 8 Aspirations event at Inspire 2 Learn. The event lasted 2 hours and pupils were given lots of information about possible future careers and education options from a Civil/Structural Engineer from Whessoe, a Student Ambassador from Teesside University, a People and Wildlife Manager from Tees Valley Wildlife Trust and Sergeant Major Mark Hill MBE from the Army. The pupils found the workshops to be interesting and inspiring and asked the employers lots of questions.



### Year 9 Visit to Tees Valley Skills Event

We took some of our Year 9 students to the Tees Valley Skills Event held at Teesside University on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September**. The students were able to spend an hour going around the event and speaking to the many employers, educators and careers advisers in attendance. Many stalls were interactive. Pupils came away with lots of information and full of ideas and inspiration for their future choices.

### Year 10 Art and Photography Visit to Newcastle

The art department ran their annual visit to Newcastle on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. GCSE Art & Design and Photography students visited museums as well as seeing and photographing the architecture around Newcastle City Centre and the River Tyne.

### Music Concert

We held our first music concert of the academic year on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. It was a huge success. Performances were mostly acoustic. There were 18 pieces of music with the first half being totally year 8, including a dance troupe which is being led by a Year 10 girl. The second half was a mix of Year 9, 10 and 11 students. There was a very good mix of students and parents in the audience. We raised £340 which will go straight towards maintaining the instruments which are used by all students in all classes.

### Year 11 Bespoke Tour of Middlesbrough College

Middlesbrough College provided a bespoke tour for a group of six Year 11 students on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. The pupils were taken on a full tour of the campus and the chance to speak with tutors from the Engineering, Aviation/Tourism and Performing Arts departments.

They spent around 2 hours viewing all of the various areas of the college. Students found the Aviation, Engineering, Health & Social Care and Public Services departments of particular interest.

