



In March 2009 we consulted with the students at Rye College

Completing forms are often low on the priority list of young people with busy social lives and homework to complete! With that in mind we sought the advice of Maureen Coleman, Vice Principal of Rye College, who suggested that the form tutors devoted one of their sessions to exploring the consultation topics with their students. Each tutor then completed a questionnaire on behalf of their form summarising the majority view. 19 forms participated with an average of 25 pupils per form. The key findings are set out below.

What do you like most about Rye?	Historical features, sweet and chip shops, skate park, sports centre, Rye Bonfire and the visiting Fair.
What do you dislike most about Rye?	Not much to do, lack of entertainment, no shops for teenagers (to buy clothes and music/DVDs), traffic, litter, lack of public transport, no cinema. Shops closed on Sundays.
Shopping – what do you buy and where do you shop?	Only buy sweets in Rye. Everything else bought in Hastings, Ashford or Eastbourne.
Would you like more shops to be open on Sundays?	All but one form said YES to more shops being open on Sundays, but some specified that the shops should sell more modern things - including clothes and music.
What do you think of the train and bus services?	More frequent trains and buses needed (particularly on Sundays) and should run later, be cheaper and cleaner. The 344 bus should run on Sundays.
Is there enough for young people to do in Rye? If no, what would you like?	All but one form said NO! The most popular answers were – more shops, youth centre, cinema, ice rink, ten pin bowling, roller disco, games shop, fast food outlets, somewhere to hang out.
Would you attend any of these activities? (list provided)	The majority favour free or cheaper gym and swim sessions. Many would use a youth club, graffiti wall, dj and music sessions, cycle training or racing and self defence classes.
Do you use Rye library? What else should be on offer there?	63% said NO. Those that did were infrequent users and suggested a wider selection of CDs and DVDs (more to teenagers' taste), more internet facilities and refreshments.
Do you use Rye Sports centre?	Most said YES, the majority being use of the swimming pool.
What other sport/keep fit would you like in Rye?	Gymnastics, water polo, table tennis, free running, ice or roller skating kick boxing, basketball, rowing and canoeing.
Do you attend Rye events and festivals?	There was good awareness of the Rye festivals and all groups had students attending some of them, the most popular were as follows – Rye Bonfire 68%, Raft Race 52% and the Christmas Festival 32%.
Have you been a victim of crime in Rye?	11 of the 19 groups all had someone who had been a victim of crime in Rye, including the theft of bags and bikes.
Are there any parts of Rye where you don't feel safe?	11 of the 19 groups said there were parts of Rye where they do not feel safe – especially places which are not well lit (such as alleyways/twittens) and Gibbet Marsh car park. Others areas highlighted included Tilling Green, the Gun Gardens, Eagle Road, Turkey Cock Lane, Lea Avenue, South Undercliff, the Skate park, bus stops, outside the Night Club and the Adelaide, waiting at the level crossings.
When you are older do you think you will live in Rye?	Many said they would not live in Rye, citing lack of job opportunities, low pay, expensive houses and not enough to do as the main reasons.
If you were Mayor of Rye what would you build/buy?	Ideas included a chain store (at Rope Walk), supermarket, cinema, youth club, roller disco and ten pin bowling. It was also suggested that CCTV should be installed at the railway station and on the Estate.